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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to allow tsunami victims in Japan to temporarily relocate to the CNMI?

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Tokyo residents clear store shelves following warnings that Tokyo's tap water had elevated radiation.

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In death, Elizabeth Taylor is being heralded for her great beauty and legendary persona.

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'Tourist drowning at Obyan in 2006 an insurance scam' PAGE 3

CUC seeks higher electric base rate

» Initial rate hike proposal amended, cites low revenues and fuel cost as reasons

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Pleading for understanding, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now seeking a higher increase in its electric base rates than the proposal it first filed in November last year and wants the new rate to take effect in May.

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10-year-old Covenant Party to field candidates for 2012 midterm polls

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Covenant Party marked its 10th birthday yesterday, which was also the 35th anniversary of the presidential signing of the Covenant that established the Northern Marianas' political relationship with the United States.

After re-electing its officers for 2011 led by president Greg "Kazuma" Camacho, Covenant Party members that included Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Shell Marianas mirrors Mobil Oil Marianas' 10-cent a gallon increase in its gas pump prices, as shown by this price display at a Shell service station on Middle Road yesterday.

Shell also hikes gasoline prices

» Mobil cites reason for latest price change

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas also increased the pump prices of its gasoline yesterday by 10 cents a gallon, mirroring Mobil Oil Marianas' price increases

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CPA violated travel regs for 4 years—OPA

» At least $179K in travel costs inadequately supported

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has found that the Commonwealth Ports Authority violated travel regulations for at least four years, including having at least 93 percent or some $179,000 in travel expenses that were not adequately supported.

OPA said CPA also adopted policies and procedures that contributed to higher travel costs.

See OPA on Page 4

KICK BUTTS DAY
CLARISSA V. DAVID
Koblerville Elementary School students win the Most Participants Award for the second year in a row during the 6th Annual Kick Butts Day celebration yesterday at Hopwood Junior High School.

See story on Page 8

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Local

New Guam-CNMI visa waiver rule to include British-HK passports

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued Wednesday an interim final rule clarifying that individuals holding British National (Overseas) passports as a result of their connection to Hong Kong are eligible to participate in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

The visa waiver program, included in U.S. Public Law 110-229 that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, allows select nonimmigrant visitors to enter the CNMI or Guam without U.S. visas for a stay of up to 45 days.

The effective date of the rule is May 23, 2011.

Comments on the interim final rule will also be received up to that date, based on DHS' interim final rule published in the March 23 *Federal Register.*

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), when asked for comment yesterday, said this rule is only about BN(O) passport holders, and has nothing to do with the inclusion of Chinese and Russian visitors in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Sablan, the Fitial administration, and the business community in the CNMI have been asking DHS to include Chinese and Russian nationals in the final rule on the visa waiver program.

Chinese and Russian nationals are the CNMI's emerging tourism markets, complementing the islands' major tourism markets of Japan and South Korea.

But while the interim final rule does not include Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano continues to use her "parole" authority to allow Chinese and Russian tourists to visit the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

These tourists have been a big help to the CNMI's tourism industry and economy.

"I'm hoping that even if the Chinese and Russian tourists are not included in the final rule, they will still continue to come to the CNMI or continue to be paroled into the CNMI," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Hint on the final rule

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, in her 13-page congressional address yesterday, reiterated that the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is another area of significant economic opportunity.

She hinted about the final rule on the program.

"I have been successful in halting development of a final rule that might not have included Chinese and Russian visitors," Bordallo said on page 8 of her prepared address titled, *Winning the Future for Guam.*

As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year 2012 budget, Bordallo said she will work with industry stakeholders, the governor, and the Legislature "to make sure that parole authority is extended to Guam to prove that visa waiver for China and Russia can work."

"This must be done before any final rule is implemented by the Department of Homeland Security," she added.

Veterans cemetery on Rota sought

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos is scheduled to introduce a bill that will preserve and designate one hectare of public land on Rota for the future site of the Rota Veterans Cemetery.

Santos (Ind-Rota), in a phone interview, said House Bill 17-172 or the Rota Veterans Cemetery Designation Act of 2011 will ensure that the island will soon have its own veterans cemetery.

"The people of Rota have been pushing for a veterans memorial park in honor of the veterans in our island," Santos told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Santos, over a hundred veterans are currently residing on Rota, and those who pass away are buried at the veterans cemetery on Saipan.

"Once a loved one is buried at the Veteran's Cemetery on Saipan, it becomes extremely difficult for family members and loved ones to visit the burial site because many are unable to afford the exorbitant airline fare, car rental, food and other expenses incurred when traveling to Saipan," the bill states.

With the ailing economy, family members will find it difficult to visit the veterans cemetery on Saipan during annual occasions like All Soul's Day and All Saint's Day, which are traditionally spent at burial sites, the bill adds.

Santos disclosed that she discussed this issue with CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman who told her that the veteran's cemetery on Saipan encompasses Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

"I was informed that unless the Saipan cemetery becomes fully occupied, then we can't have another CNMI veterans cemetery that is federally funded," said Santos.

Santos, however, was advised that Rota can have its own local veterans cemetery "but it has to be locally funded."

According to Santos, she is certain that Public Lands will work on designating the one-hectare public land "since this is for a good cause."

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'Tourist drowning at Obyan in 2006 an insurance scam'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The drowning of a Japanese tourist at Obyan Beach in 2006 appeared to be an insurance scam, according to a Japanese court, after learning that the victim was urged to obtain a 100 million yen insurance policy and that his two companions at the beach had 36 traffic accidents and had filed insurance claims on all of these.

A Japanese interpreter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* ran an article on Wednesday about the insurance scam.

The interpreter, who requested anonymity, said that, according to the news article, the Gifu District Court in Japan had issued a decision to reject the 100 million yen insurance claim filed by the victim's parents in a lawsuit against Tokio Marine in connection with the drowning. The interpreter said the article did not mention the name of the deceased.

Saipan Tribune files, however, indicate that 22-year-old Kiyohisa Ichikawa drowned at Obyan Beach on June 27, 2006, and that he had two companions when the incident happened.

A Japan-based reporter confirmed the court's decision with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday and affirmed that the victim's name is indeed Kiyohisa Ichikawa.

The interpreter on Saipan said the article states that the Gifu District Court judge had cited probable cause to believe that the victim's brother-in-law and his friend, who accompanied him on the trip to Saipan, had intended to have him insured, then kill him and somehow make it appear that he accidentally drowned.

The judge said the victim was found dead on June 27, 2006, in the waters off a Saipan beach and that local police declared the cause of death to be drowning following an autopsy.

The judge noted that two days prior to leaving Japan for Saipan, at the airport counter the deceased subscribed to a 100 million yen insurance policy payable to his parents, which was done at the urging of his traveling companions.

During the litigation of the lawsuit, Tokio Marine noted that the deceased had never bought an insurance policy before except in this one instance at the urging of his traveling companions.

The insurance company had also pointed out that there was no possibility of drowning, considering that the water at the site was shallow at the time.

Tokio Marine had pointed out that the two companions had prior records of 36 traffic accidents, all of which they made insurance claims on.

CNMI-wide fundraiser for Japan disaster

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Japan-associated organizations in the CNMI have collaborated with the local government to conduct a fundraising drive that aims to provide assistance to the victims of the destructive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11.

Launched on March 22, the Japan Disaster Relief Fundraising is spearheaded by the Japanese Society of Northern Marianas, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Japan Saipan Travel Association under the auspices of the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Governor's Office.

"The people of Japan have been very supportive of the CNMI economy for many years and our relationship with Japan stretches over many decades. Our friends now need your help," Japanese Society vice chair Yoichi Matsumura said.

According to Matsumura, people can support the CNMI-wide fundraising drive in three ways: placing a donation box at their establishment, participating in their radio-thon and walkathon events, and making cash or in-kind donations.

Matsumura said they organized a radio-thon drive on Saturday, April 2 at the Garapan Fishing Base starting at 6am.

He said cash donations to be made will be acknowledged on radio stations KKMP 1440am and 92.1fm, KZMI 101fm, and KWAW 100.3fm.

Matsumura said the Marianas Walking Association also scheduled a walkathon on April 2, the details for which have yet to be finalized.

Meanwhile, in-kind donations are intended for the raffle draw to be held during the Japan Disaster Relief Fundraising drive on April 2.

"All the proceeds of the fundraiser will be endorsed to Japanese Consul Higuchi-san of the Japan Consular Office of Saipan," said Matsumura.

For more information, contact Matsumura by email at matsumura@pdisaipan.com or call 287-8785.

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NMI and Micronesia are 'an unexplored region'

Travel writers Sandra and John Scott, who were on Saipan for the first time this week, said the CNMI and the whole of Micronesia boasts of a rich culture and traditions as well as scenic sites that make it a "totally unexplored" region.

"The culture and tradition here is unbelievably intense, which makes it a good place to explore," said retired educator Sandra Scott.

"You know what they say: small islands, big history," added John Scott, a retired nuclear power plant engineer.

The couple, who write weekly and monthly travel columns and maintain travel blogs, started traveling together in the '80s and have visited numerous countries around the world.

"Travel is very enlightening. You learn a little bit about the various cultures and customs that people have," said Sandra Scott.

They, however, only learned about Saipan through a friend that promotes Palau as a destination.

During their stay, the Scotts toured the island's historic sites, visited the local museum, enjoyed the Garapan Street Market last Thursday, and also explored the island of Tinian.

Despite its valuable role in history, Tinian is an island that not many people know of, according to Sandra Scott.

"The island needs to have bigger search coverage on the Internet. I searched for it online and I didn't get information about the island that is of help to someone who wants to see the place," she said.

According to Sandra Scott, the local tourism board should have a blog site that contains valuable information about the islands and will entice more tourists to visit the CNMI.

Blogging about the CNMI and its many facets would also help, added Sandra Scott who keeps up an array of blogs, from cooking to spa visits.

"Blogs are important to promote the islands and even the local businesses," she said.

Visit www.sanscott.com to see the extensive travel experiences of the Scotts. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

OPA

From Page 1

These include having CPA per diem rates that are higher by $25 to $100 than the CNMI's per diem rates for travel within and outside the commonwealth.

OPA said CPA's travel records and documentation were also not properly maintained.

Public Auditor Michael Pai released Wednesday the 18-page audit on travel practices at CPA covering the period from Oct. 1, 2004, to March 31, 2008.

OPA said the CPA management and board's violations of travel policies and procedures occurred because it did not adequately review travel documents, implement proper internal control procedures to track and recoup outstanding travel obligations, and enforce the agencies' travel policies.

"The impact of these events, if not corrected, is a loss of potential savings and opportunity cost for the agency," the public auditor said.

If CPA management and board continue to be noncompliant with travel rules, Pai said that employee morale and the "tone at the top" could be affected.

"Given the CNMI's current fiscal and economic conditions, it is necessary that cost-cutting measures be adopted to meet current obligations and ensure the upkeep of its facilities and operations. For this reason, potential savings should be derived where possible, including keeping travel costs at a minimum," the public auditor said.

CPA compliance

CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero responded to OPA's preliminary report on Dec. 20, 2010, generally concurring with OPA's findings and seven of nine recommendations.

OPA "closed" seven of the nine recommendations after determining that CPA has taken sufficient action to meet the intent of the recommendations.

Among other things, the CPA board of directors issued on Oct. 18, 2010, a memorandum requiring employees to submit all travel documents within 15 days after completing travel.

The CPA board's memo said failure to comply will result in automatic payroll deduction and the employee will not be authorized to travel unless all outstanding travel advances have been cleared.

CPA, a public corporation established in 1981, is responsible for the operations, maintenance, and improvements of all airports and seaports in the CNMI. It is run by a board of directors, currently chaired by Joe Lifoifoi.

Numerous findings

OPA's findings are divided into three major categories.

First, CPA was found not complying with travel regulations.

Specifically, OPA's review of 40 trips selected for audit showed that travel costs were not adequately supported and this involves at least $179,000 in travel expenses, travel vouchers that were not submitted on time, and outstanding travel advances that were not tracked.

OPA also said travelers with outstanding travel obligations were not denied subsequent travel advances, payroll deduction was not initiated for employees with outstanding travel obligations, and unearned per diem was uncollected from traveler.

For example, a CPA employee was authorized to travel to Kosrae and Majuro from Oct. 5 to 20, 2007, to conduct training. At $200 per day, total per diem advanced to the traveler was $3,140. However, the boarding passes showed that the traveler left Saipan on Oct. 7 at 9:30pm and returned to Saipan on Oct. 21 at 8:50pm.

Using CPA's calculation method, OPA computation showed overpayment of 41.5 hours or $346 excess per diem that should have been returned.

Under the second group of findings, OPA said receipt of travel vouchers was not always documented, travel advances in the books were not always liquidated on time, and employee receivables were poorly tracked.

For example, at the end of fiscal year 2007, three travel advances totaling $7,560 were still outstanding although travel vouchers had been submitted.

"The failure to timely liquidate the balances resulted in understated travel cost for the fiscal year," OPA said.

Under the third major finding related to CPA's adoption of policies and procedures that contributed to higher travel costs, OPA said CPA had higher per diem rates, per diem was advanced 100 percent, and per diem was paid for flight time.

"Not only are CPA's rates higher, CPA travel policies allow per diem to be advanced at 100 percent compared to 80 percent under CNMI travel regulations," OPA said.

OPA said under CNMI travel policies, per diem is not paid for any time that the airline provides lodging and subsistence.

It said at CPA, a full per diem is calculated from the time of departure to the time of return, including the time the traveler is in the air.

In one sample reviewed for a trip to Honolulu where per diem is set at $250 per day, the flight and transit time totaled about 31 hours.

OPA said it estimates that savings of about $200 to $250 per off-island trip could have been realized if flight and transit time had been excluded in the calculation.

"OPA's review covered a sample of 39 off-island trips where an estimated $7,800 could have been saved," the public auditor said.

CPA, in its response to OPA, said it will not exclude flight time from per diem calculation; however, it will comply by adopting a per diem rate consistent with the central government's rate.

CANDIDATES

From Page 1

party will field candidates in the 2012 midterm elections.

Camacho and Inos said the party will have candidates for members of the CNMI House of Representatives, CNMI Senate, and a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

There are 20 members of the House, nine at the Senate, and one delegate, for a total of 30 positions up for grabs in next year's elections.

Inos said the Covenant Party is here to stay, being a recognized political party that continues to meet the requirements of the election law and with members that are committed to serve the people.

Camacho, in an interview at the Covenant Day celebration at the Minachom Atdao pavilion in Susupe yesterday, said a candidates committee will be revived soon.

Besides Camacho, the other re-elected officers were first vice chair Melvin Faisao, second vice chair Martin Sablan, secretary Miriam "Kit" Seman, and treasurer Emma Villagomez.

"I'm glad that the officers who have been serving have agreed to continue to serve the party, from the chairman all the way to the secretary and treasurer. We're extremely grateful for them volunteering their services for at least another year," Inos said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial formed the Covenant Party in 2001 for his gubernatorial ambition. He didn't succeed the first time but won on his second bid and got re-elected to a second and last term expiring in January 2015.

But on Jan. 5 this year, Fitial went back to his original party, the Republican Party.

Fitial said his end-goal is to merge the Covenant and Republican parties, which the GOP did not approve.

This year's Covenant Party meeting on Covenant Day drew a thinner crowd than in previous years, but members present yesterday said this could be because of a host of factors, including funerals and the short notice about the meeting.

Nevertheless, another meeting will be held in two to three weeks, said Camacho.

When asked whether he thinks Fitial's absence from the meeting could be a factor, Camacho said, "We're moving on."

But he and Faisao also said they still consider Fitial a party member.

"The Covenant does not turn down people," he said.

Faisao, who is the secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, initially denied that Fitial has left the Covenant Party, despite published official letters from the governor and the Republican Party in January.

Faisao later said that Fitial will always be a member and founder of the Covenant Party. He also said he will continue to be a member of the party regardless of whether Fitial is still with the party or not.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, who is also a Covenant Party member, said the gathering was not only to comply with the party bylaws to meet at least once a year but also to "reflect on the importance of Covenant Day."

CUC

From Page 1

Based on the new filing it submitted to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, the new rate would boost the monthly bill of average residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hour by $5.96 while those using less than 250 kWh per month will see an increase of $4.21.

In its previous November filing, CUC's proposal would have increased the billing of a typical residential customer by $4.18 per month and $28.30 per month for small businesses, effective April 1, 2011.

"I must apologize. These are tough times. It is difficult to ask for even these few dollars of rate increase at this time," said CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren. "We really have tried to operate off of new efficiencies and federal grants before asking our customers for this base rate increase."

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is scheduled to meet next month. If the CUC proposal is approved, it will become effective on May 11, 2011.

In a statement yesterday, CUC said higher volume residential and commercial users will experience greater increases monthly. Residential users of 1,000 kWh will pay approximately $20.46 more each month, while small businesses using 500 kWh will pay about $22.37 more a month. Small businesses using 1,000 kWh will pay $41.37 more each month.

Warren said that CUC's electric division needs to spend about $32 million each year to provide electricity but is currently collecting only about $19.9 million. He said it cost CUC $80 million yearly to buy fuel.

If the proposed increase is approved, CUC projects to generate $28.7 million in revenue—a 44-percent increase from the current revenue of $19.9 million.

For CUC to keep the lights on, "we need this money to do it," Warren said.

CUC said that this is its first increase in its minimum monthly charges in a decade. All other electric increases, it said, have been "pass-throughs" to the oil supplier to buy the oil that CUC burns to make electricity.

A customer's electric bill is composed of two parts: the base rate and the LEAC, or levelized energy adjustment clause.

The base rate is the amount it costs CUC to pay for all of its costs to produce electricity, including buying parts to fix engines, poles, transformers, and other equipment. It also covers the hiring of technicians and engineers that CUC needs to keep operating and is key to enabling CUC to comply with the federal stipulated orders.

The LEAC is the part of the bill that covers payment for diesel and lube oil to run its engines to generate power.

CUC said that since the base rate is currently only about 20 percent of the total electric bill for customers, this will result in a monthly increase of below $6 for most average residential users.

"We are continuing to pursue renewable energies, so that we can lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and make power generation less expensive for our customers," said Warren.

In September 2010, the commission disapproved a CUC proposal to increase its LEAC rate, saying the current LEAC rate—$0.24446 per kilowatt-hour rate—is just and reasonable.

SHELL

From Page 1

a day earlier.

As of yesterday morning, Shell's regular unleaded gasoline costs $4.459 a gallon, just like at Mobil service stations as early as Wednesday morning.

Shell's V-Power unleaded gasoline, as well as Mobil's, is now $4.779 a gallon.

Diesel at Mobil and Shell went up to $4.769 a gallon, but this went up earlier this week.

Gennaro Cioffi, president and lead country manager at Mobil Oil Guam Inc./Mobil Oil Micronesia Inc./Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., said the prices of gasoline is determined by a number of factors.

He said these include changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, the regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution and marketing costs, government regulations, taxes and competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

"In recent weeks, the wholesale prices of crude oil and gasoline in the world market have gone up, partly as a result of the increased geopolitical risk in the Middle East (Libya in particular). As such, we are feeling the effects of those wholesale price increases at the pumps," Cioffi said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune* questions about the latest 10-cent a gallon increase in pump prices on Saipan.

The price of crude oil continues to hover above $100 a barrel.

Saipan motorists are grumbling but said they cannot do anything about the situation other than to cut costs in other household expenses.

It's only been two weeks since Mobil and Shell increased their pump prices on Saipan, also by 10 cents a gallon. This brings to four the number of times gas prices have increased in 2011, and to 10 since 2010.

Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least $1.80 a gallon in gasoline prices since February 2009.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Many Saipan motorists learn of such price changes only by the price displays at gasoline stations.

NMC board expects results of background check on Monday

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College expects to receive on Monday the result of the criminal and financial investigation being conducted on the top three candidates for NMC president.

Board chair Juan Lizama said he and his colleagues are optimistic that they can make a final selection when they convene for a special meeting next week.

Lizama said the Association of Community College Trustees had told them that the results of the background checks will be endorsed after completing its eight- to 10-day investigation on the three candidates: Drs. Jeff Armstrong, Christa Adams, and Sharon Hart.

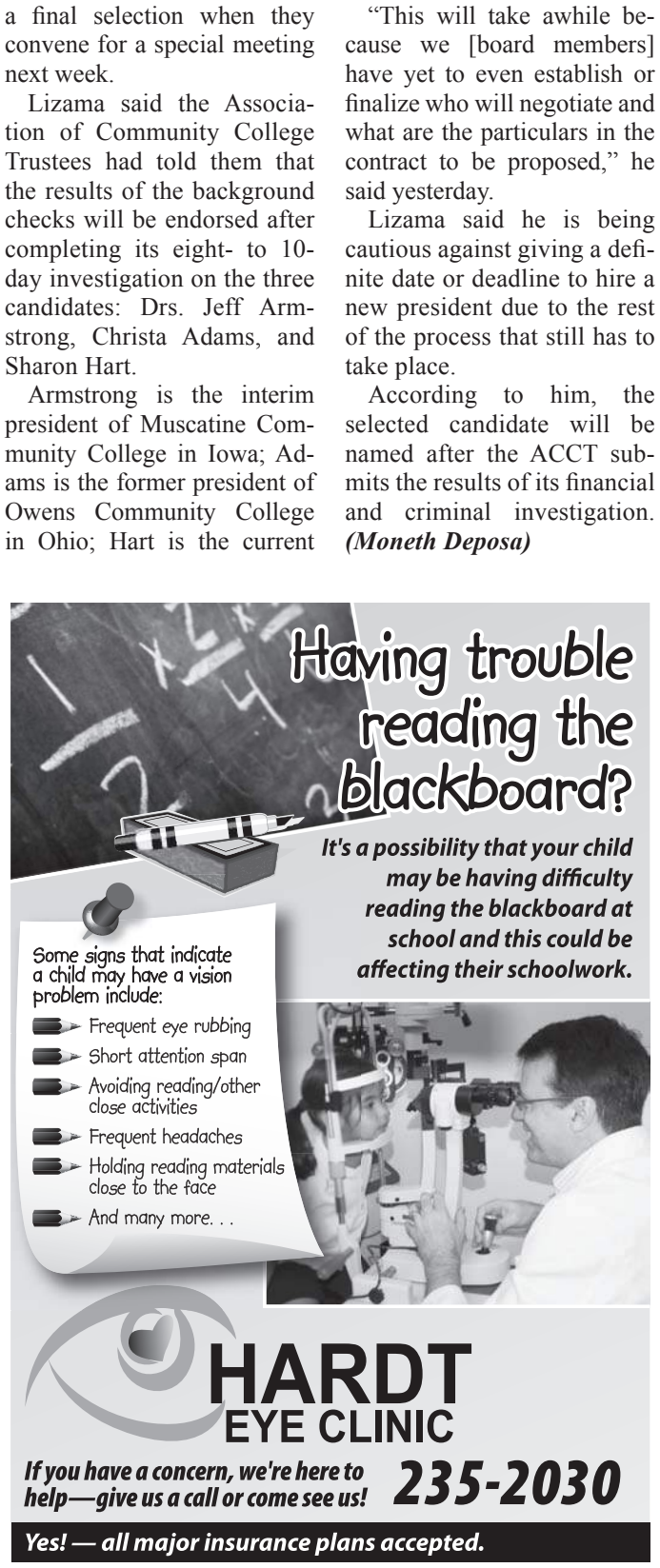
Armstrong is the interim president of Muscatine Community College in Iowa; Adams is the former president of Owens Community College in Ohio; Hart is the current deputy president of the University College of Caribbean in Jamaica.

Lizama pointed out that the completion of the hiring process will not end with the final selection. It will be in the next process: the offering and acceptance of a contract by the qualified candidate.

"This will take awhile because we [board members] have yet to even establish or finalize who will negotiate and what are the particulars in the contract to be proposed," he said yesterday.

Lizama said he is being cautious against giving a definite date or deadline to hire a new president due to the rest of the process that still has to take place.

According to him, the selected candidate will be named after the ACCT submits the results of its financial and criminal investigation. ***(Moneth Deposa)***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Cabrera: Exempt Legislature from cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) wants the Legislature to be exempted from the monthly allotment cuts that other government agencies will have to bear starting in April.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said yesterday that the speaker's request is "still under advisement."

Demapan said the difficulty with granting the speaker's request "will result in increasing allotment cuts to the other branches of government."

"These are difficult times in our government finances, so whenever the administration implements cuts, we try to spread it out across the board so that all government functions can equally share in the 'sacrifice,'" Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said last week that agencies will get 9 percent to 10 percent cuts in their monthly allotments starting next month, as actual revenues have proven to be less than the $132 million budget for fiscal year 2011.

Cabrera

"We as legislators respect the lieutenant governor's decision as he currently oversees government financial matters here in the CNMI. As a separate branch of the government, I am respectfully requesting that allotments for the Legislative Branch of government not be included in allotment cuts that will commence [in] April 2011," Cabrera said in a March 18 letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Cabrera said the CNMI people are faced with a lot of economic disparity and leaders also have to make tough decisions to safeguard people from further suffering.

"We understand that we have to work cooperatively and share in the adjustments and/or cuts in the distribution of resources allotted for governmental operations. The lt. governor was quoted in the local paper that a 9 to 10 percent cut will be made on allotments beginning April 2011," Cabrera said.

He then went on to ask Fitial to exempt the Legislature from the allotment cuts.

As of yesterday, there's no definite percentage for the allotment cut—whether it's still 9 percent or 10 percent or more.

Even before a 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11, the CNMI government was already behind by $7 million to $8 million in projected revenue for the October 2010 to February 2011 period.

This is the reason behind the planned monthly cut in allotments starting April.

The administration said that fiscal year 2012, which begins on Oct. 1, will prove tougher with only $120 million in projected revenue, lower than the $132 million budget for fiscal year 2011.

Ex-cop pleads not guilty to charges of using excessive force, false arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former police officer has pleaded not guilty to charges of using excessive force in making a false arrest of two men last year when he was still with the Department of Public Safety.

Frankie S. Pangelinan, through court-appointed counsel Robert T. Torres, on Wednesday waived advisement of his constitutional rights and a reading of the charges.

He pleaded not guilty to the indictment that charges him with deprivation of rights under color of law (excessive force), deprivation of rights under color of law (false arrest), and deprivation of rights under color of law.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja released Pangelinan on his personal recognizance to his wife who will serve as third-party custodian.

Naraja required Pangelinan, among other things, to submit to a substance abuse assessment, to stay home at all times, and to refrain from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons.

Jury trial will be on May 23, 2011.

Naraja stated that he will recuse himself from any future proceedings in the case as he is related to Pangelinan.

According to the indictment, on July 26, 2010, Pangelinan sprayed pepper spray into the eyes of Felipe "Phil" Kalen and Alafanso Anso Kintin, resulting in bodily injury.

The defendant allegedly arrested Kalen without probable cause, depriving Kalen of his Fourth Amendment right to be free of unreasonable seizure, "which includes the right to be free from arrest except upon probable cause."

Rotarian urged 'to do something' for Japan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Following the destructive aftermath of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis in Japan, Rotarian David Sablan emphasized the need for the Saipan Rotary Club to get into action and do something for the victims of the unfortunate devastation.

"We, as members of the Rotary, should do something and must do something," Sablan said during Tuesday's meeting.

Sablan

According to Sablan, the Saipan Rotary Club should duplicate its actions when Typhoon Jean struck the Marianas and caused widespread damage to the islands.

Sablan noted that "we have a moral obligation" to help the people of Japan as most of the visitors on island over the past 30 years are Japanese tourists. "We owe it to the folks in Japan," he added.

Although organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are providing help for the victims, Sablan said the scope of work that needs to be done is "a hell lot bigger that we can ever offer out of Saipan."

According to Sablan, there are a lot of homeless people in Sendai that "might wish to get away from it all and come to Saipan" to stay for weeks or months while the city recovers from the devastation.

Sablan said the Saipan Rotary Club should coordinate the group of people who are willing to accommodate a family in their home.

He said the club needs to come up with a central point where coordination for assistance efforts can be done.

Sablan also said they can look into local garment barracks that are vacant and can house the disaster victims from Japan, adding that they need to call the military in Guam or the Army Reserve on island to clean these barracks and make them habitable.

"We're going to go to the military and ask them if they would provide us cots, pillows, sheets, towels, anything we need to house some of these homeless people in Sendai," he said.

Sablan said Rotarians need to volunteer in specific committees to assist in these efforts.

"I ask you to put all your 'service above self' mentality and help do something," he added.

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Students celebrate 2011 Kick Butts Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Kagman High School students receive their prizes for being overall winner in the high school level of the 2011 Kick Butts Day dance competition.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Hopwood Junior High School dance crew are all smiles after they were declared overall winner for the dance competition junior high level.

Despite the intermittent rain alternating with scorching heat, hundreds of students and community members joined forces to promote tobacco-free living among the youth during yesterday's 6th Annual Kick Butts Day organized by the Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center.

"Kick Butts Day is a national event that empowers the youth to speak out against tobacco by using activities like dance competition, parade, and roadside waving. This year, we had more people than last year," Tobacco Prevention & Control Program coordinator Leiana Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Ogumoro, the youth look forward to Kick Butts Day every year as it brings together students from different schools.

Over 700 students from 20 schools, organizations, and sports leagues joined this year's festivities that started with a roadside waving at the Mount Carmel field followed by a parade at 9am that ended at Hopwood Junior High School where a program was held.

The Refaluwasch Cultural Dancers and Kagman High School Fancy Drill Team provided entertainment for the crowd.

The annual event culminated with a dance competition among seven schools and different grade levels. They were judged by CGC director Josephine Sablan, Tina Crisostimo of Marianas Health Services, and Jonathan Kiyoshi of NMC-CREES.

Winners of the dance competition were, for high schools, Kagman High School, first place; Marianas High School, second place; and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, third place; Hopwood Junior High School, first place for junior high; and Koblerville Elementary School, first place for elementary level.

"We're really happy that we won. We met as friends and started dancing in school. We practiced our three dance routines for two weeks," said Jefferson Mateo of the winning dance team from Hopwood.

A seventh grader, Mateo said the Kick Butts Day celebration is a good event to encourage youth to live a tobacco-free lifestyle. "Dance instead of smoking to keep healthy and stay fit," he added.

Karen Alla, teacher coordinator for Koblerville Elementary School, said this is the second year that they became the overall winner for elementary and got the Most Participants award based on their parade participation.

"It wouldn't happen without teamwork and cooperation from everyone. We all worked hard for this," Alla told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alla said their school had 36 students from second to sixth grades who danced during the competition and an additional 70 students, parents, and teachers who took part in the parade.

"I hope the students continue to promote smoke-free environment," she added.

All winners received trophies and Foremost gift bags. In addition, the first place winners brought home an additional $100.

Exciting games such as egg toss and three-legged relay were also played courtesy of Power 99 disc jockeys Bonez, Flip, G, Spade, and Sweetz, who served as masters of ceremony.

"Kick Butts Day is a great campaign to discourage smoking and underage drinking among students," said Rep. Joseph Palacios (Rep-Saipan) who joined the festivities.

Palacios said the tobacco-free campaign among students also involves the rest of the community as students reach out to friends and family members and encourage them to kick the habit.

Ogumoro said yesterday's turnout helped them get the message across.

"You can have fun and enjoy yourselves by dancing, singing, just being with your friends, without using tobacco," said Ogumoro, adding that the Kick Butts Day celebration will just become "bigger and better."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students of Koblerville Elementary School pose for a group photo after winning first place overall in the elementary level during the 6th Annual Kick Butts Day dance contest.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 25, 1999

CUC determines 2nd review of bids today

Amid mounting clamor for a complete review, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation decides today whether to allow an independent evaluator to finish its task of selecting the "best and final offers" among various proposals for the new power project on Saipan. The Attorney General's Office has already recommended a second round on the review process being conducted by Burns & McDonnell, a private engineering firm hired by CUC in January to reevaluate all 13 proposals initially submitted for the project. The board of directors of the government-owned utility firm is set to meet this morning to vote on whether they will allow the next evaluation phase or award the $120 million contract to Marubeni-Sithe which topped both a CUC selection process and the independent reevaluation.

Experts see daunting task ahead for CNMI

In a move to save the island's declining economy, a group of economists, financial analysts and planners recently gathered here to help officials plan for the CNMI's economic future. While experts agree that the Northern Marianas will be able to rise from its present difficulties, they also believe that efforts to improve the economy won't be an easy task due to forces beyond the government's control. "We want to look at industries that offer business and employment opportunities capable of advancing the standard of living in the CNMI. We are looking at industries that require highly skilled and paid workers," said Jack Peters, director, Business Development Center.

Mar. 25, 2002

Regents revokes Eucon provisional license

The State Board of Regents unveiled Friday the decision to revoke the Eucon International College's nine-month provisional license, citing investigation results that gave credence to three students' complaints regarding the private college's "inadequate" educational services. In a decision mailed and hand-delivered to the EIC, the BOR determined that "EIC is clearly not in a position to provide adequate education as a post-secondary educational institution. Furthermore, the EIC is not in a position, either, to adequately prepare its students for the NCLEX-RN examination. EIC cannot help its students prepare to become nurses.

IBB inaugurates new building

The International Broadcasting Bureau officially opened its new Robert E. Kamosa administration and transmitting station in San Antonio during an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony held Friday. Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente led government officials from the Department of Public Works, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Marianas Public Land Authority, CNMI mayors, and other guests in a tour of the new transmitting station. The blessing of the administration building was officiated by Father Ino Colendrino. Also present during the ceremony were Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja, and Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona.

Mar. 25, 2003

CUC seeks out new oil suppliers

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently seeking out new proposals for the supply of fuel for its power plants on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The CUC said it is looking for either a two-year contract or a five-year agreement with any contractor. Right now, CUC's power plants in all three islands get their oil supply from Mobil. The oil firm's contract expires early next month. CUC said offerors should present a certification stating that the company has had no violations of applicable local and federal labor laws. Without it, the company must provide a written explanation detailing any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken.

BOE asks govt for help on FEMA requirement

The Board of Education is asking the CNMI government for assistance in getting insurance for PSS buildings to meet the requirement set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the release of funds. "We need the government's help here. The government should address this as a whole, not just us. We're dealing here with one agency-FEMA. And it's their requirement for all government buildings," said BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero. Failure to secure the required typhoon insurance coverage would mean no funding from FEMA, he said.

'OAG not obliged to represent Tinian mayor'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has ruled that the Office of the Attorney General is not obligated to represent the mayor and treasurer of the Tinian and Aguiguan municipality in an action brought against them pursuant to the Open Government Act.

"There is no express language in the Commonwealth Constitution or statutes that obligate the OAG to represent the mayor or treasurer of chartered municipalities within the Commonwealth," said Inos.

The judge discussed the OAG's role in an order granting the OAG's motion to withdraw as counsel for Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Raymond M. Dela Cruz and treasurer Allen Perez in the lawsuit filed by former Coastal Resources Management Office director Felipe Q. Atalig.

Amendment 25 of the CNMI Constitution, Inos said, changed local governments by establishing independent chartered municipalities.

"In so doing the municipal mayor's office realized an increase in power and autonomy. The Open Government Act applies to municipal offices, but this fact alone does not obligate the OAG to represent these offices," the judge said.

Atalig is suing Dela Cruz and Perez for allegedly failing to respond to his two Open Government Act requests.

Dela Cruz has asked the OAG to represent them in the case. The OAG first agreed to provide limited representation but on Jan. 13, 2011, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham notified the mayor that the OAG would be withdrawing.

Dela Cruz and Perez then insisted on continued OAG representation, prompting the OAG to file the motion to withdraw as counsel.

Assistant attorney general Craig Dittrich argued that the OAG does not possess constitutional or statutory authority to represent Dela Cruz and Perez in Atalig's lawsuit.

Dittrich said the OAG is only authorized to represent the governor and executive agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and the Commonwealth itself.

The CNMI Constitution provides that "the Attorney General shall be responsible for providing legal advice to the governor and executive departments, representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters, and prosecuting violations of all Commonwealth law."

Dela Cruz and Perez, through counsel Lillian Ada Tenorio, interpret "representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters" as mandating the OAG to represent them.

Tenorio contended that this choice of words "suggests that the framers of the Constitution intended to extend and include within the ambit of the OAG's constitutional mandate public entities beyond the Executive Branch."

Inos pointed out, though, that the CNMI Constitution was amended to include Article VI, Section 8 to establish the municipalities of Rota and Tinian and Aguiguan as "agencies of local government."

Inos said prior to this amendment, each elected mayor's role was that of adviser to the governor on local matters.

After the amendment, Inos said, the governor must now delegate the administration of public services to the mayors of each chartered municipality.

Thus, Inos said, there is a clear distinction between the central government and the agencies of local governments.

Inos ruled that the mandate of Article II, Section II, that the AG shall represent "the Commonwealth in all legal matters," does not obligate the OAG to represent political subdivisions of the central government such as the chartered municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan.

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EDITORIAL

Conflicting statements muddle Obama's message

The weekend bombing campaign against Libya brought the United States dangerously close to engaging in another war, and the United States doesn't need another war. The Obama administration has fallen short in explaining the long-term objectives of this attack, the rules of engagement and the limits of U.S. commitment if the conflict continues to escalate.

We supported an Arab-backed no-fly zone over Libya, particularly given dictator Moammar Gadhafi's shockingly inhumane treatment of his own people. He shows no reservations in bombing and strafing civilians, pledging that he will show no mercy in trying to annihilate the opposition.

Our preference was to see Libya's turmoil play out as similar revolts in Tunisia and Egypt, where entrenched authoritarian leaders stepped down after recognizing that the days of dictatorship are over. Gadhafi clearly makes no such recognition, nor does he have qualms about shedding large quantities of blood to stay in power.

Other Arab uprisings have been tainted with violence, but not lopsidedly so. With Gadhafi loyalist forces in control of the air and rebels being bludgeoned into submission, there was no chance of this fight occurring on a level playing field.

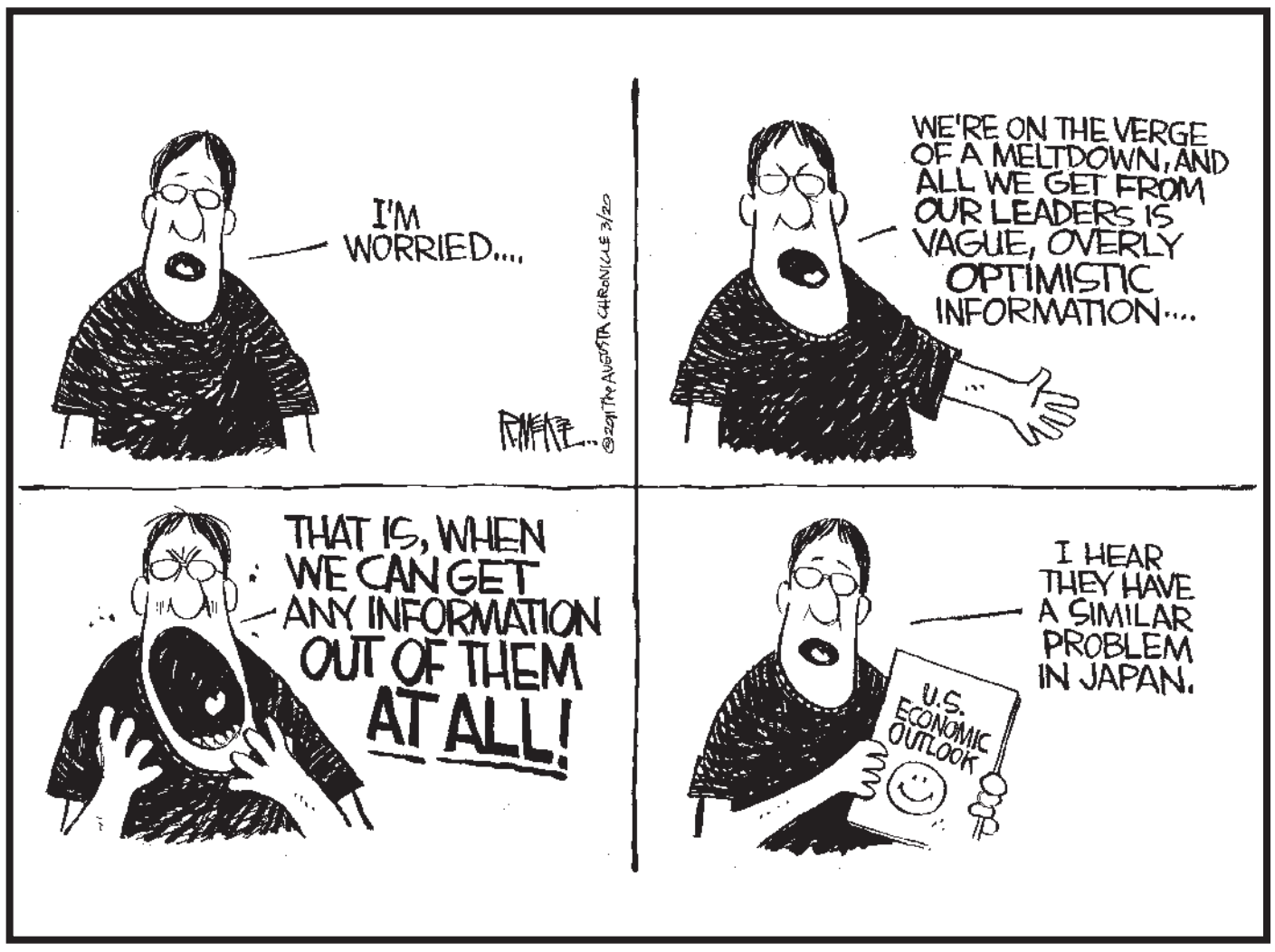
The Arab League supported a no-fly zone not to justify an overwhelming Western intervention but simply to give the rebels a fighting chance. The weekend's U.S.-led attacks marked a kind of shock-and-awe moment reminiscent of the 2003 Iraq invasion. Arab League leaders were horrified.

Compounding the problem were conflicting statements from administration officials about the goals for the operation now called Odyssey Dawn. President Barack Obama suggested the objective was regime change, having stated repeatedly that Gadhafi has to go. Obama went far to clarify the scope of U.S. involvement during remarks Monday in Chile, but much ambiguity remains.

Other administration officials have added to the confusion, with Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggesting the U.S. component of the attacks could last for weeks, while Obama characterized it as limited to a matter of days.

It naturally fell to the United States to take a lead

See CONFLICTING on Next Page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Up the down staircase

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The bugle morning call of Reverie is amplified daily at 6:45am over Shenyang Aerospace University's student housing at the campus. Physical consciousness is built in to the cultural foundations of the Taoist tradition that shaped China so discipline in physical fitness is a matter of course.

The school trains air cadets and since the difference in the training between military and civilian pilots does not exist, the boys and girls in uniform, as squads, platoons, companies, and battalions, also shout their corporate count-offs like grunts, and loudly display their cadenced jog this time of the day. The 20-goalpost basketball yard that fronts the 11th floor view of my room is the gathering node. Waking up to their noise is inescapable.

Clockwork is a quality of this campus. Expectations are scheduled. The lights are turned off at 11pm (except the foreign student/faculty apartments), going off in sequence like they do in movie depictions of correctional institutions. I gave up wristwatches since the PDA, the laptop, and the cell phone, nor do I have an alarm clock in my room. With the bugle sound before 7am, who needs one?

I am giddilly ranting on physicality and scheduled expectations because an email from my daughter in Chicago just landed on my desk this morning announcing the death of John Montgomery, a friend in Atlanta. He was a 63-year-old prone to heart failure. He and his wife Judy had big hearts, quite literally, and bursting physiques to match their convivial and jovial personalities. Judy preceded him to a memorial urn a few years back. As a couple, they preceded my first family's human development tasks in Majuro in the early '80s where in one of the lagoon islands, they lost an infant at childbirth while teaching Marshallese students, subsequently deciding to adopt and raise two infant Asian boys who grew up to be exemplary men of brain and brawn.

I could hear John and Judy's hearty laughs as I trudged down the 11 floors worth of staircase in my building, my daily muscle-limbering regimen to accompany the students in formation at the basketball court. John was two years my junior and at a time when we now have second thoughts about bending down to pick up an item inadvertently dropped on the floor, and wait until three items make it before getting down on all fours to retrieve them, we keep an eye on our breathing and our pulse, and the girth of the midsection.

Going down the staircase that faces a U-shaped driveway before the basketball court is actually motivating since one looks down through the huge glass paneled window frame and see where one is headed from the heights. There is a destination in sight, and as we all know, having a vision is essential in any journey. Once we reach the ground floor and tackle the 20-some steps on each floor on the return, we could no longer see where we are headed; instead, we look at each step one at a time, which every management guru will tell you is the key to accomplishing a mission. Or, as the old staff sergeant use to bellow, "You die in your boots one tactic at a time."

We do not get mentally tired in the process, though one inevitably feels the depth of one's breathing and the blood pressure races like it was on a stock car in the Daytona 500, but reaching the top of the staircase (there are 12 floors and when we have the time and the inclination, we tramp up the extra floor) is at once an experience of exhilarating stale atmospheric release and fresh air intake exuberance.

We dabble in English words this semester, having six classes of oral English for college-level Chinese students who have spent 10 years already in academic study but are still reluctant to venture into the spoken word. Various words were used to describe me before I left Saipan. A marketing colleague said that I turned "corpulent," while a buddy patted me on the back for "a rotund personality." My former sixth grade student at Hopwood just hollered, "Mr. V, you are growing fat!" Now here in Shenyang, I am "cute" in the fat belly sense of the Chinese Year of the Rabbit *xiao tuzi guai guai* (good little bunny). Which puts me in the same league with my contemporaries John and Judy who bothered to sprinkle mirth on earth as they chuckled their way in and to heaven.

It is officially Spring in *Dong Bei* Manchuria since the bunny hopped in February but the Siberian winds have yet to recognize the temperature prescribed by the solar calendar, but then, this late in March, it is still snowing in New York even as disaster relief is hampered by the powdery stuff in Sendai. My joints refuse to leave winter, requiring socks, mitts, and the winter vest over the long johns before getting under the covers. The SAU admin, of course, turned off central heating at the appointed time, which only leads us to wonder why we left Saipan's year-round 24-30 C degrees in the first place. Folly is no monopoly of one age group, as my Tinian colleague would echo.

Oh, SAU's public address system does not play "taps" when it turns off the lights. We are grateful for life's little favors. We say that in the same breath as we remember John and Judy, and we are doubly grateful that we were able to say so when they were still able take the affirmation and acknowledgement unto their breaths! Make sure you do the same with your loved ones.

In our corpulence, we trudge. *L'achaim!*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A note on rote

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

I am going to totally ignore the world today and float a few idle ideas about the learning process, because, well, just because. Hey, when it comes to idle, I'm your man. So don't worry, I'm not going to wring my hands over the public school system, and I'm not going to wax sanctimonious about the importance of education. I'm not a soapbox kind of guy; I'd rather take a nap on the couch.

I have no way of gauging this, but lately I have been told by parents with school-aged children that learning by rote memory has, in the U.S. at least, fallen out of fashion. As for me, well, my approach hasn't changed since disco ruled the airwaves: Some things, I decide to memorize, and some things, I decide not to memorize. Seems simple to me.

I used to earn a living teaching people how to fly small airplanes. When I first got into that line of work I surveyed the stack of books our school issued, and I noticed that nobody had prioritized this stuff for presentation to the students.

Yeah, students were supposed to know it, and, yeah, some of it was more important than the rest of it, and, yeah again, the rest of it wasn't always very important, except, of course, when it was important, but nobody seemed to really say when that would be, and, sure, some of it wasn't all that critical no matter what, but, well, there it was anyway, all mixed together in text, in tables, in diagrams, in charts, and in illustrations, so students should just, well, try to memorize what they could and hopefully things would work out.

What a mess. It was the old "throw it against the wall, and see what sticks" philosophy.

So I drafted a list of the most important stuff to know, generally things like airspeeds, altitudes, power settings, and other parameters for various flight maneuvers, wrote study sheets for that, and wrote brief quizzes to cover that material as it would pertain to each flight lesson. Before each flight lesson, the student had to pass the little quiz. This chopped up the vast, amorphous blob of academic material into little, bite-sized chunks of the juiciest, most important stuff. The students digested it readily.

It was just like the lab routine where the rat pushes the lever and gets rewarded with the food pellet. It's not a big lever. It's not a big pellet. But it established a clear link between effort (lever: studying) and reward (pellet: flying).

Of course, rats have it easier than student pilots do. For one thing, rats don't have to drop $120 on cool aviator shades, and don't even get me started on those spiffy leather jackets. Furthermore, the students actually had a lot more academic stuff to face, but it was no big deal after the important basics had become second nature. By the time they got to that point they were already thinking like pilots. Once they thought like pilots, they could start prioritizing stuff for themselves as they polished the lenses on their new Ray-Bans.

And here's where the population polarizes, and I'm talking about everything and everyone under the sun, not just flight students.

Some people have a knack for analyzing information and prioritizing it. In other words, they have learned how to learn. And so they invent an optimal way to learn something, sort of a strategy of priorities, keeping mindful of their overall goal and the constrained resources (time, usually) they can throw at it.

The real masters usually use an iterative process, where they'll memorize the most important set of facts, then, once that's done, they'll cycle back and memorize the second most important set of facts, and so on.

Of course, this approach involves a lot of work up front, such as deciding on how to prioritize the information. Well, as the wily old lumberjack says, "If I had four hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend three of it sharpening my axe."

Meanwhile, there's an opposite approach to the learning game. This is the linear thinking approach. These folks see a big stack of information and they'll just march right in, giving everything they encounter equal weight and attention. To them, all data is information, and all information is the same. Sorry, no sharp axes here, just the blunt strokes of dull effort.

Well, such are my notes on learning and rote. For me, rote has always been an important part of learning and instructing, but that's because I used it deliberately, not pedantically. So my work is done here, and it's time for my nap on the couch.

Suing the feds

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD, is a board certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine *as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in* Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists *and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.*

A group of doctors is suing the federal government. The Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine, a non-profit group of some 10,000 physicians, is taking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to court for what they claim to be deceptive language in the new food pyramid. Do you remember the food pyramid? It's usually up in every classroom in America, and gives the USDA's recommendations on what constitutes a balanced and healthy diet. Every five years, the USDA updates the food pyramid, supposedly based on the latest scientific evidence, and publishes it jointly with the Department of Health and Human Services. These recommendations form the basis for all federal nutrition programs, including school lunches. PCRM claims that the USDA is hiding harmful foods behind confusing language. And they claim that they are doing so because of the influence of the agricultural industry—an industry that has a lot to lose if people stop eating the foods that are harmful to them.

PCRM acknowledges that the new guidelines are the best they've ever been. But they point out that the USDA guidelines, when describing which foods to eat more of, clearly state "eat more fruits and vegetables"; however, when describing which foods to avoid, they avoid saying "don't eat meat and dairy" but instead use biochemical terms that the average person has difficulty translating into a food choice. For example, instead of saying "avoid meat," the guidelines say, "avoid solid fats."

I'm not surprised. After all, the Secretary of Agriculture has the statutory duty to foster "new or expanded markets" and move "larger quantities of agricultural products through the private marketing system to consumers." The PCRM lawsuit points to the fact that the very people who are on the committee that recommends the food pyramid guidelines have ties to meat and dairy food-product industries. Just a slight conflict of interest, don't you think?

Those of us in the medical field are painfully aware that the vast majority of chronic disease is the result of what people put into their mouths. We see our patients getting fatter and sicker, digging their own graves with their spoons and forks. It has been known for decades that the best diets for health—those that can nearly eliminate diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity—are those that have limited animal products, those where meat is used for 10 percent of the calories, mostly as flavoring. This has all been scientifically proven. There really is no debate about it. Yet our government tries to control spending on healthcare while simultaneously publishing "guidelines" that seem to be directed toward protecting agribusiness instead of the general public. I'm hopeful that this lawsuit will lead to clarity in the language of the food pyramid, and that our federal agencies will be straightforward and scientific in the health advice they give us.

Note: Topics discussed are for example or illustrative purposes only, and are not to be taken as medical or professional advice. Comments or questions? *Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.*

A forgotten tool in our energy crisis

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday*, is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

OK, show of hands. Now that Japan is battling to contain a reactor crisis, how many of us think nuclear power is too dangerous to use? That's a lot of hands! Good, fine. Now how many decided, after the big Gulf of Mexico oil spill, that offshore drilling is just too risky? You folks feel the same about drilling in environmentally sensitive parts of Alaska, right? OK, now how many oppose injecting water into deep wells, at the risk of contaminating aquifers, in order to tap natural gas reserves? The process is known as hydrofracking, and environmentalists hate it.

Maybe you do, too. Did I mention that it would happen way upstate? Maybe that makes it OK; in general, the more distant our energy sources, the better we like them.

Perhaps that's why some Long Islanders objected to a plan seven years ago to put offshore wind turbines near Jones Beach. People often object that these big windmills will ruin the view and pose dangers to birds (although of course not as many dangers as cats, who kill birds by the millions).

Turbines might be OK far off in the West, but then we'd need more transmission lines. That's the trouble with hydropower as well. Who wants these lines running through the neighborhood? How about liquefied natural gas? Was anyone in favor of an LNG terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound? Hands up if you were opposed. Just as I thought, a forest of arms. There's always coal, but most of it burns dirty. And getting at it requires sending miners on a risky daily journey underground. Anything about coal appeal to you, or are we against that, too? But I'll bet there's one thing we can agree on—that we all like electricity, as long as it doesn't involve nuclear power, coal, gas, oil or unsightly bird-killing turbines. Hands up if you agree that this is just the kind of power we need.

Your arm is tired, isn't it? But I'm sure you see what I'm getting at. If there's one thing we ought to take away from Japan's grim struggle with its nuclear facilities, it's the realization that, when it comes to energy, we're living in a dream world. Cheap energy is the basis of modern life, but none of our major forms of energy is truly cheap. Nearly 20,000 Americans die annually from fossil-fuel pollution, the National Academy of Sciences has found, and globally the figure is many times higher.

Then there's climate change. Most scientists believe global warming from burning fossil fuels is causing serious environmental harm. And do we really like sending our hard-earned money to the kind of despotic regimes that produce a great deal of the world's oil? Since we don't like the energy sources we have, and since solar and the like are years from helping much, what if we tried something different? Something economical, harmless and emission-free? What if we tried ... conservation? It sounds like sacrilege, but in the past we've had a lot of success with this. Today we use half as much energy to produce a dollar of economic output as we did in the 1970s. And we could do much better.

Germany and France use about a third less energy on this basis than we do. The United Kingdom uses half as much. Conservation won't solve the problem, but it can make the problem quite a bit smaller. Unfortunately, we won't succeed in conserving much until we get higher energy prices—preferably by raising energy taxes, so we pay the money to ourselves. Doing so could underwrite research into finding the energy sources of tomorrow, even as it reduced our dependence on the troubling energy sources of today.

CONFLICTING

From Page 10

role in the beginning because U.S. satellites, surveillance aircraft and ship-based missiles were best situated to direct the attack. Now, Obama, already commanding inherited wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, must clearly delineate the limits of America's involvement in Libya.

With Gadhafi's forces no longer posing a threat in the skies, it's time for U.S. forces to back off and allow others—preferably Arab air forces, backed by European allies—to take the lead.

Placing a U.S. stamp on this campaign would be a big mistake. A high U.S. profile not only serves to de-legitimize the Arab-Western coalition effort but also robs Libyan opposition forces of any claim that theirs is a grassroots, pro-democracy movement.

This is their war, not America's.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲88	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲83	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼36
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Los Angeles	Showers	▲61	▼49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲85	▼64
New York	Sunny	▲42	▼24
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼41
Pusan	Sunny	▲52	▼36
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼45
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼44
San Francisco	Rain	▲55	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲48	▼29
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼36
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲50	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N145E to beyond 130E at 18N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 380 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap between the equator and 7N from 140E to 148E and north of Palau within 60 miles of a line from 9N130E to 11N136E. An upper-level trough runs southward from 25N173E through a low centered northwest of Kwajalein at 10N166E then turns southwestward passing near Kosrae then south of Chuuk and Pohnpei then ends near 5N147E. Divergent upper-level winds east of the trough and low are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the Marshall Islands between 5N and 16N from 164E to 177E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 148E to 156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		10:39 AM
Saturday	12:06 AM	11:36 AM
Sunday	12:59 AM	12:32 PM
Monday	1:47 AM	1:25 PM
Tuesday	2:31 AM	2:16 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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BOE tightens policy on child-abuse reporting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education is tightening its policy against child abuse and has approved the designation of a liaison officer at each school to effectively curb the crime.

In the CNMI, child abuse is a crime that penalizes certain actions taken toward a child by any person who occupies a special relationship with the child. This can be committed either by a person who has custody over a child, or a person who occupies a position of authority to that child.

Under the new policy adopted by the Education Board, all PSS employees who know or has reasonable cause to suspect that an instance of child abuse has occurred or will occur are required to report that knowledge, according to policy procedures. Failing to do so may expose the employee to disciplinary action.

Immediately upon becoming aware that an act of child abuse has occurred, or developing a reasonable cause to believe that an act of child abuse has occurred or will occur, the PSS employee shall contact the Department of Public Safety within 24 hours.

"The PSS employee's responsibility to contact Public Safety is non-delegable," according to the board.

For internal reporting, each school and each PSS department will appoint a child-abuse liaison who shall be made known to all PSS employees and shall be provided contact numbers by which they can reach the education commissioner and PSS legal counsel after work hours.

The PSS employee shall contact the designated child abuse liaison in their school or department. This contact shall be made by the end of the school day, or as soon as possible on the following school day if after school hours. If the PSS employee cannot locate the liaison in such time, he or she shall contact the head administrator of their school or department.

The child abuse liaison will then report the matter to the education commissioner and the PSS legal counsel who will initiate an investigation.

Any person who knowingly or willingly interferes or attempts to interfere with another person who is attempting to make a report of child abuse may face disciplinary action.

Man allegedly chokes woman with a PVC pipe

A woman sustained multiple injuries after her boyfriend allegedly beat her up and choked her with a PVC pipe at his residence in Kagman on Sunday morning.

The victim suffered several bruises and injuries on the face. She had an inch-long laceration above the right eyebrow, according to Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan.

The suspect, Christopher R. Dela Cruz, 28, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Dela Cruz was taken to the Superior Court on Wednesday for an initial court appearance.

Pangelinan stated in her report that police officers responded to Kagman on Sunday at 10:59am after receiving a call about a domestic violence in progress.

The victim told police that Dela Cruz threw her clothes and other personal items out of their room. Dela Cruz also allegedly slapped her face, pulled her shirt, and punched her in the head several times.

Dela Cruz then allegedly dragged the girlfriend into their bedroom where he choked her using a PVC pipe from a window curtain.

It was Dela Cruz's mother who separated the two.

As the victim was walking to a neighbor's house to get help, Dela Cruz threw the PVC pipe at her, hitting her in the back, police said.

According to court documents, police served Dela Cruz with the complaint Tuesday night.

Dela Cruz's lawyer, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, questioned the delay in bringing his client to court on Monday as he was arrested on Sunday. Hartig said the government should follow the 48-hour rule when a suspect is arrested.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo noted that he sees "these things creeping up" when a suspect is arrested and the judge is asked to sign papers two to three days later.

Citing the seriousness of the charges, however, Govendo kept the bail at $6,250. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Boat capsizes between Rota, Tinian; 3 saved

GUAM—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controllers on Thursday received a report of the rescue of three mariners from their capsized boat in the waters between Rota and Tinian.

A passing commercial vessel, the *Super Shuttle*, which was en route from Guam to Saipan, picked up the distressed mariners about 1pm on Thursday. The mariners, all from Rota, were the only people aboard the boat when it capsized.

The mariners were expected to be delivered to Saipan at the completion of the voyage late Thursday.

Mariners are asked to make early contact with emergency officials and report all marine emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at (671) 564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

Cepeda selected to national society of scholars; joins young leaders' seminar

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 15-year-old boy born and raised on Saipan was accepted to the National Society of High School Scholars and was selected to participate in the National Young Leaders' Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Martin Dela Cruz-Cepeda, a sophomore student at Las Cruces High School in New Mexico, is the son of Sharlene and Martin Cepeda Sr., both from the CNMI.

According to Claes Nobel, chairman of the National Society of High School Scholars, Cepeda was accepted to the organization because of his outstanding academic achievement at his school.

"Your hard work has placed you among a select group of students and has earned you this invitation to join other outstanding high school scholars in recognition of dedication to excellence," Nobel told Cepeda in a letter.

Martin was also selected by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council to be a national scholar at the National Young Leaders' Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer.

According to Marguerite C. Regan, dean of academic affairs of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, Cepeda's selection was a result of his exceptional scholastic achievement through the council's academic partnership with George Mason University, which has been recognized for three years by U.S. News & World Report as one of the Top 10 "Universities to Watch" in the country.

By attending the congressional youth leadership council, Cepeda can receive college credit through George Mason University.

Cepeda

With members of the U.S. Congress serving as the council's honorary congressional board of advisers, the conference is the premier leadership program in the country designed for the nation's best and brightest high school students.

According to Regan, Cepeda will witness the nation's democracy in action and interact with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and the national news media during the nine-day conference in Washington, D.C.

Through presentations and workshops, Cepeda will also explore important concepts such as critical thinking, empathy, and compromise while developing vital problem solving, time management, goal setting, communications, and public speaking skills.

In an interview, Cepeda's mother Sharlene said she is overwhelmed with the good news.

"The family is very proud of our son's achievement," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The younger Cepeda was born and raised on island. He studied at Dandan Elementary School and Mount Carmel School.

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HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School honor roll list for the 3rd quarter:

6th Grade

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Colin Ramsey, Carl Dela Cruz, Yu Bin Park, Stephanie Lee, Elnathan Wong, Ringo Leung, Kevin Lee

"B" Honor 3-3.99
Olivia Hirsh, Keon Woo Kim, Shirley Qian

7th Grade

"A" Honor 3-50-3.99
Quintin Ramsey, Mary Grace Tiglao

"B" Honor 3-3.49
Ji Hoon Lee, Tammy Ackerman, Jameson Kui Lee, Joel Jang, Jun Pyo Jeon, Jason Lee, Tommy Choi

8th Grade

"A" Honor 3.50-3.99
Jee Hyun Lee, Emily Dewitt

"B" Honor 3-3.49
Lydin Johnson, Rebekah Esplin, Han Mil Oh, William Fong, Jehn Joyner, Jin Pyo Jeon, Xuan Jun Lu.

Scholarships for K-12 teachers to learn about island ecology

Science teachers in kindergarten to 12th grade on Guam, Saipan, Tinian, or Rota have an opportunity this summer to do field biology research alongside scientists to better understand the forests of the Mariana Islands.

The Ecology of Bird Loss project (http://faculty.washington.edu/tewksjj/ebl) seeks to recruit two teachers who teach in K-12 schools located in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, or Rota to participate in the field research project in the Mariana Islands this summer.

The teachers will work alongside field biologists researching the role of birds in the limestone forests of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The teachers will also be given time and assistance in developing a curriculum to bring this experience back into the classroom.

Applicants must be available for seven weeks between May and August, 2011. Each teacher will be paid a weekly stipend of $1,000 and receive funding for curriculum materials for his/her classroom.

For more information, e-mail Kaitlin Mattos at kjmattos@uw.edu with any questions.

To apply, email a cover letter, a two-page maximum resume and contact information for three references to kjmattos@uw.edu. The cover letter should include a paragraph explaining how teachers hope to use the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Teachers program to enhance science and ecology learning in your classroom. Applications are due by 5pm on March 30 (Guam/CNMI time). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

No classes at Chacha Ocean View today

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School is scheduled to have a statewide professional development today, March 25, 2011. There are no classes for all students. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

NMC 2011 graduation candidates meeting today

Spring 2011 graduation candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting today, March 25, 2011, at Room D1 on the NMC campus at 7pm.

The meeting will feature updates on graduation, a discussion on the plans for the graduation theme, the election of class officers, and other matters. For more information, email Daniel Kintol at danielk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2011 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. ***(NMC)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting today, March 25, 2011, at 5pm at the NMPASI conference room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism-related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call 235-7274 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Navy sets training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 26, from 9:30am to 1pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the time and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USN)***

Veterans outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans and all concerned that Tina San Augustine, Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive director of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, will be on Rota and Saipan on April 4-7, 2011, for a veterans outreach on federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

- Rota: April 4-5, at 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office
- Saipan: April 6-7, at 8:30am-4:30pm at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capital Hill, building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Bordallo addresses long-term readiness challenges in the Pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo addressed long-term challenges to military readiness in the Pacific during an Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee hearing Tuesday last week. Bordallostressed the importance of the buildup to maintaining a strong U.S. defense posture in the Pacific as well as the need for the build-up to benefit Guam's civilian community. She emphasized her belief that water and wastewater systems in Guam should be consolidated under the Government of Guam at no cost to the ratepayers. She requested an update on when task orders for MACC contract awardees will be issued, and Assistant Secretary Pfannenstiel indicated that task orders will begin to be issued in the very near future. Bordallo also requested an update on efforts for the DOD to partner with the University of Guam to provide technical studies and analyses for the Guam buildup.

During the March 15, 2011, hearing, the subcommittee received testimony from Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; Michael Schiffer, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs and East Asia; and Maj. Gen. Randolph Alles, director, J-5 Strategic Planning and Policy for U.S. Pacific Command. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary in Chalan Kanoa

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary incident that occurred at a residence located just behind Sister Remedios School in Chalan Kanoa District 2.

On Friday, March 18, 2011, around 8:30am, the victim Walter Cepeda-Sutherland, sports reporter for *Saipan Tribune*, awoke earlier that morning to discover his home was broken into and his personal items stolen.

It was discovered that the point of entry was through a sliding window where the screen was cut open. The suspect(s) stole the victim's 32-inch Samsung LED TV 6000 series; XBox 360 with Halo faceplate, two controllers, a 25-foot insulated HDMI cable, and a Batman DVD. The items were estimated to be over $1,200.

The incident occurred sometime in the late night to early morning hours. The victim mentioned that there is usually a group of men seen frequently hanging out near his residence. This is the third time burglars struck the victim's residence in a five-month period.

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigative Bureau and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the community. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website a www.nmicrimestoppers.com. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-027

REHABILITATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION NOS. S-2 & S-8

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of Two (2) Sewer Lift Stations and the installation approximately 1,300 foot of force-main. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of pumps, guide rails, control panel cleanup of the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, pipes, replacement of generator, asphalt paving, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (nonrefundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **March 28, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-027, **Rehabilitation of Sewer Lift Station Nos. S-2 & S-8"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Robert Lorenz, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID)

Inspection and Integrity Testing of Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and Connected Pipeline – CUC Rota, CNMI – Revision # 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting revised competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline within the secondary containment, as included in this solicitation.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and # 41 Rota Power Plant Integrity Inspection Program.

The Power Plant in Rota is located in Song Song Village near the Rota Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 28, 2011.**

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID),Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline, CUC Rota, Revision No.1" the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **April 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement &Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **April 1, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective bidders who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Invitation for Bid in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

NMTI students try to get a feel of the job market

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hyatt Regency Saipan chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane, left, and director of rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla, right, join the nine students of Northern Marianas Trades Institute culinary arts class shortly before they went to the field to apply for jobs Tuesday morning.

With still months to go before they finish their culinary arts class, nine students of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute have already started laying the groundwork for when they enter the local workforce.

Flora Lyn Aldan, Sirirat Castro, Prangthong Johansen, Erlinda Muna, Elsa Rasa, Shigeo Sakamoto, Sombat Shankweiler, Rosemarie Somol, and Zillah Wabol began submitting application forms to various businesses in Garapan on Tuesday.

Chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane of Hyatt Regency Saipan, who serves as the students' culinary arts class instructor, briefed the students at the hotel lobby about what they need to do and how they should present themselves to potential employers before they headed out to the field.

"We want our students not just to learn new skills but also to use these skills to get them employment opportunities," Tomokane told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMTI, Tomokane said, helps create more local talents and develop a skilled local workforce.

"Now that they're equipped with the right skills, we want to encourage them to go out and apply for jobs where they can use these skills," he added.

Tomokane said he constantly thinks of creative ways to help students get jobs and getting them organized as a group to go from one establishment to another is just one of them.

Sirirat Castro, who used to work for United International Corp. as a garment worker, said it's been a while since she last had a job.

"It's my first time to apply and I'm nervous," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Having been married to a Chamorro for eight years, Castro said she likes to make local food. "I want to work in a restaurant someday," she added.

A staff of NMTI, Elsa Rasa, said she decided to take up culinary arts to enable her to apply for a job in any food establishment and even have her own restaurant business in the future.

"I'm confident to apply for a job in a restaurant because my NMTI classes enhanced my knowledge in cooking. I'm excited to apply what I learned," she said.

Although she's a little bit nervous, former garment factory supervisor Rosemarie Somol said she wants to think positive for her and her 11-year-old daughter's sake.

"I want to be confident in looking for a job for my daughter's future. I hope that all of us will get a job," she said.

Tomokane disclosed that one student, Flora Lyn Aldan, already got herself an interview with a restaurant on the same day.

However, Tomokane noted that Tuesday's job hunting was a bit difficult for the students. "They saw how hard the process was," adding that the students will continue applying for jobs during their own time, individually or as a group.

Tomokane remains hopeful that more establishments will give the students a chance to prove their worth and will continue to encourage the students to go out and submit their resumes to various establishments on island.

Those who want to interview the NMTI students may email Tomokane at ztomokane@gmail.com.

BOOK DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan presents young philanthropist Angel Ray Guerrero with six cases of books and educational games and toys received from Library of Congress Surplus Book Program. Angel Ray's charitable giving supports many of the Commonwealth's youth centers and youth programs. Joining Angel Ray for the presentation yesterday, March 24, 2011, at Sablan's District Office on Saipan, is his father Joseph Lee Guerrero, his mother Victoria Tudela Guerrero, and his cousins Luizi Reyes, Herman J. Guerrero, and Niki Villagomez.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-GOV-065

A/E DESIGN OF THE GARAPAN WATER QUALITY RESTORATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A/E services required will be available on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 2:00 PM ChST, Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. ChST March 31, 2011.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project discriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel - 25%
2. Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects - 25%
3. Project Approach and Schedule for Completion - 25%
4. Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required - 25%
5. Proposed Costs to perform the A.E design work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the A/E design is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be
subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP11-GOV-065, A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project".** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 19, 2011, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 28, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
/S/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Upcoming projects identified for Guam

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii— A signed Programmatic Agreement now paves the way for the U.S. Navy to proceed with construction projects in Guam in support of U.S. Marine Corps relocation efforts from Okinawa, thereby enhancing the readiness of U.S. joint forces in the Pacific theater and operational capabilities of the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The signing of the PA is an important milestone," said Joseph Ludovici, director, Joint Guam Program Office. "We are looking forward to continuing to work with the people of Guam and the business community to deliver the requirements for the relocating Marines."

Over $1 billion in funding provided by the U.S. and government of Japan has been secured thus far for military construction projects. The Navy and Marine Corps remain committed to a deliberate approach of procurement actions and, per the Record of Decision, will apply Adaptive Program Management to adjust the pace and sequencing of construction projects to a sustainable level so as to not exceed Guam's infrastructure capacities. As a result, contracts for the projects that have been funded thus far will be awarded throughout the year.

Seven projects have been identified for 2011. Contracts totaling more than $93 million for the first two projects were awarded in September 2010. Others for this year include the Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB) North Ramp parking and AAFB North Ramp utilities projects that are expected to be awarded next month, the Apra Harbor medical clinic project that is planned for award this Summer, the waterfront headquarters building project that is scheduled to be awarded in December, and phase one of the utilities and site improvement project.

"We are pleased that the Navy can move forward with some of the initial work," said Capt. Peter Lynch, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas commanding officer. "These projects allow mission essential infrastructure for the Guam Realignment to proceed with a solid agreement to protect the valuable cultural resources on Guam and Tinian and stimulate economic growth in the region."

This initial work is part of the design phase of the projects, where intrusive digging and boring work on project sites, which was put on hold until the PA was signed, will now begin and help contractors determine the best designs to submit for their construction proposals.

"While design work for the projects is proceeding, construction is not expected to begin immediately," said Capt Don Chandler, NAVFAC Pacific's Guam program management officer. "With the PA now signed, we can let our contractors know that they can complete the final phase of their design work. Once the designs are submitted and approved, the next step will be to tell them to go ahead with construction work." ***(USN)***

Business

AP

A worker loads boxes containing bottles of water onto a truck to distribute to households with infants, at a warehouse in Tokyo Thursday, March 24, 2011.

Anxiety in Tokyo over radiation in tap water

TOKYO (AP)—Workers loaded trucks with boxes of bottled water to distribute across the city Thursday after residents cleared store shelves following warnings that Tokyo's tap water had elevated radiation coming from Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear complex.

Anxiety over food and water supplies soared a day after city officials reported that radioactive iodine in the tap water was measured at levels considered unsafe for babies over the long term.

"The first thought was that I need to buy bottles of water. I also don't know whether I can let her take bath," real estate agent Reiko Matsumoto said of her daughter, Reina, age 5. "I am very worried."

Tokyo supermarket clerk Toru Kikutaka said water sold out almost immediately after the news broke Wednesday, despite a limit of two, 2-liter bottles per customer. "I've never seen anything like this," he said, surveying the empty shelves.

The panic in Japan's largest city, home to around 13 million people, added to growing fears over the nation's food supply as nuclear workers at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant 140 miles (220 kilometers) to the north struggled to regain control of the facility.

The nuclear power plant has been leaking radiation since the tsunami engulfed its cooling systems, leading to explosions and fires in four of its six reactors. After setbacks and worrying black smoke forced an evacuation, workers were back to work Thursday, said Hidehiko Nishiyama of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Government spokesman Yukio Edano sought to allay fears over the tap water readings.

"We ask people to respond calmly" to the water situation, he said at a briefing Thursday. "The Tokyo metropolitan government is doing its best."

Households with infants will get three, half-liter bottles of water each—a total of 240,000 bottles—city officials said, begging Tokyo residents to buy only what they need for fear that hoarding could hurt the thousands of people without any water in areas devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Nearly two weeks after the magnitude-9 quake, some 660,000 household still do not have water in Japan's northeast, the government said Thursday. Electricity has not been restored to some 209,000 homes, Tohoku Electric Power Co. said.

Portugal's PM quits after debt-cutting plan nixed

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Debt-stressed Portugal's prime minister quit Wednesday after opposition parties rejected his latest austerity measures devised to avoid a bailout that looks increasingly likely.

All opposition parties united to defeat Prime Minister Jose Socrates' proposals in a parliamentary vote, saying the belt-tightening went too far.

"The opposition (parties) took away the government's ability to continue running the country. As a consequence, I have tendered my resignation to the president," Socrates said in a televised statement. In accordance with constitutional procedure the prime minister presented his resignation to the head of state, who is mostly a ceremonial figurehead and has no executive powers, before announcing it publicly. His resignation also ended the center-left Socialist government's six-year period in power.

The government's latest austerity package was its fourth set of measures in 11 months as Portugal has scrambled to avoid the embarrassment and financial consequences of asking for outside help. It has introduced tax hikes and pay cuts that have angered trade unions and prompted a wave of street demonstrations and strikes.

Portugal's problems could thwart efforts by European leaders to persuade nervous investors that all is well in the eurozone, including Portugal. It could launch another spell of market turbulence for the bloc and doom Lisbon to accepting financial assistance like Greece and Ireland last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hawaii to spend $3M in wake of Japan tourism fall

Hawaii tourism officials expecting sharp declines in travelers from Japan have approved using $3 million in reserve funds. The Hawaii Tourism Authority said Wednesday it voted to use money from special reserves to offset a tourism shortfall in the wake of the earthquake in Japan. Officials predict as much as a 45 percent drop in visitors. They plan to use the money to increase visitors in other markets. The plan includes increasing flights from Korea and China and sending a tourism delegation to Japan. ***(AP)***

NZealand economy grows, but 2nd recession possible

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's economy just avoided a double-dip recession despite a destructive earthquake last September, as manufacturing bounced back to underpin weak growth late last year, data showed Thursday. A much more destructive quake struck near the southern city of Christchurch on Feb. 22 and killed at least 166 people in one of New Zealand's worst disasters. Economists say the second quake will further reduce growth through the first half of 2011. With 10 percent of the country's economic production hit by the temblors, New Zealand could yet return to a recession this year.

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

SPRING PROMOTION
UNTIL MARCH 31, 2011 (FOR 1 YEAR CONTRACT)

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
Price : 1 BEDROOM - ~~$650.00~~ From $500.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$850.00~~ From $650.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, On-Duty Security Guard at Night, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

PASTEL INN APARTMENT
Location : SAN JOSE, SAIPAN
Landmark : Right besides Roshi's Store
Price : STUDIO TYPE - ~~$350.00~~ From $250.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$550.00~~ From $400.00~
: OFFICE SPACE (928 SQ. FT.) - ~~$1,000.00~~ From $700.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, Broad parking space, Spacious yard, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT
Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to 747 Dining & Bar
Room type : STUDIO-TYPE, and 1 BEDROOM
Price : ~~$450.00~~ From $350.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, 24 Hour Water Supply
Power and Water excluded

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN
Location : PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to Bank of Hawaii
Room type : 2 BEDROOMS AND 3 BEDROOMS
Price : ~~$1,500.00~~ From $1,200.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry & Dryer, Swimming Pool & Tennis Court, 24 Hour Fresh Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

YOUNGS BUILDING
Location : MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where Pacific Quick Print is situated
Area : 760 SQ. FT. (2nd FLOOR ONLY)
Price : $500.00~
Features : Parking Lot, Power and Water excluded

ATOM'S
MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
233-8880

We also accommodate Daily, Weekly or Monthly basis.

For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan.
Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends.
You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

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Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA through its Administratrix Marcie M. Tomokane,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 09-0026-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**
IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA, Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 07-0375-D** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 3rd day of February, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to its Administratrix and heir directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 7th day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Judgment, to wit:

Tract No. 22128, located in Ginalangan, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Plat No. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Nation

Gulf probe: Blowout preventer was flawed

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The blowout preventer that should have stopped the BP oil spill cold failed because of faulty design and a bent piece of pipe, a testing firm hired by the government said Wednesday in a report that appears to shift some blame for the disaster away from the oil giant and toward those who built and maintained the 300-ton safety device.

At least one outside expert said the findings cast serious doubt on the reliability of all the other blowout preventers used by the drilling industry.

The report by the Norwegian firm Det Norske Veritas is not the final word on the Deepwater Horizon disaster last April that killed 11 workers and led to more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing from a BP well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

But it helps answer one of the lingering mysteries nearly a year later: why the blowout preventer that sat at the wellhead and was supposed to prevent a spill in case of an explosion didn't do its job.

The report cast blame on the blowout preventer's blind shear rams, which are supposed to pinch a well shut in an emergency by shearing through the well's drill pipe. In the BP crisis, the shear rams couldn't do their job because the drill pipe had buckled, bowed and become stuck, according to the DNV report.

The 551-page report suggested that blowout preventers be designed or modified in such a way that the shear rams will completely cut through drill pipe regardless of the pipe's position.

The blowout preventer was made by Cameron International and maintained by Transocean Ltd.

The report suggested that actions taken by the Transocean rig crew during its attempts to control the well around the time of the disaster may have contributed to the piece of drill pipe getting trapped.

"This is the first time in all of this that there has been a clear design flaw in the blowout preventer cited," said Philip Johnson, a University of Alabama civil engineering professor who did not take part in the analysis.

"My reaction is, `Holy smokes, every set of blind shear rams out there may have this problem.'"

In response to the report, Cameron spokeswoman Rhonda Barnat said the blowout preventer "was designed and tested to industry standards and customer specifications." She added, "We continue to work with the industry to ensure safe operations."

In a statement, Transocean said the findings "confirm that the BOP was in proper operating condition and functioned as designed." It added: "High-pressure flow from the well created conditions that exceeded the scope of BOP's design parameters."

BP spokesman Daren Beaudo said the oil company supports efforts by regulators and the industry to make blowout preventers more reliable.

Speculation on why the blowout preventer failed has persisted during the year since the disaster.

Documents emerged early in the probe showing that a part of the device had a hydraulic leak, which would have reduced its effectiveness, and that a passive "deadman" trigger had a low, perhaps even dead, battery.

DNV noted loss of fluid and weak battery power in its report, but did not seem to cite those problems as significant causes of the blowout preventer's failure.

JOE HILL, Esq.,
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Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MELANIE M. PELIGRINO-RONCALES, Petitioner, versus **NESTOR B. RONCALES,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0173-FCD** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe , Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 1st day of April, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EVELYN G. ABABA-LINA, Petitioner, versus **AMELITO E. LINA,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0526-FCD** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of October, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 9th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to Defendants directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 014 D 09, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 014 D 01, the original of which was registered on December 3, 1976 as Document No. 5691 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPW/ED-066

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 19, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ENERGY PROFILE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO energy_profile@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 05, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 07, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, PROC. & SUPPLY

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Special Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a special meeting on March 29, 2011 (Tuesday) from 3:00pm-5:00pm, CK Head Start Resource, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. New Business
1. Action Item:
   a. Approval of SY 2010-2011 Community Assessment Report
   b. Approval of FY 2011-2012 Basic Grant Application

IV. Executive Session

V. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761.

/s/ Anthony Barcinas
Chairperson

ACROSS THE NATION

Lawyers: Loughner sent to Missouri for mental exam

PHOENIX (AP)—The suspect in the January shooting rampage in Tucson was flown Wednesday to a specialized facility in Missouri to undergo a court-ordered mental evaluation, and his lawyers immediately asked an appeals court for him to be returned. Lawyers for Jared Lee Loughner said in a court filing that he was taken from Tucson to a federal Bureau of Prisons medical facility in Springfield, Mo. Loughner was ordered transferred to have tests to determine if he understands the nature and consequences of the charges he faces and can assist in his defense.

SC train wreck conductor: I'm a victim, too

COLUMBIA, SC. (AP)—The man at the helm of the children's train ride that crashed and killed a 6-year-old boy said Wednesday that the wreck hurt him emotionally and physically. "I'm as much a victim here as anyone else," said Matt Conrad, flanked by two attorneys, his right arm in a sling. "I'm suffering, too." Conrad, who had not spoken out publicly until the Greenville news conference, said he was unprepared for the onslaught of media attention he's received since the wreck Saturday at Spartanburg's Cleveland Park. Benji Easler was killed and 27 other passengers injured when the nearly 60-year-old train derailed on a bridge.

Wave of anti-abortion bills advance in the states

NEW YORK (AP)—Dozens of bills are advancing through statehouses nationwide that would put an array of new obstacles—legal, financial and psychological—in the paths of women seeking abortions. The tactics vary: mandatory sonograms and anti-abortion counseling, sweeping limits on insurance coverage, bans on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. To abortion-rights activists, they add up to the biggest political threat since the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 that legalized abortion nationwide.

60+
EARTH HOUR
Tan Holdings
goes green
EARTH HOUR
GO BEYOND THE HOUR
8:30-9:30 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011
By simply switching off your lights or turning off non-essential lights and appliances in your home, buildings and facilities for one hour, we can make a great contribution to this global pursuit of ongoing environmental change.
We encourage you to make these 60 minutes a meaningful event with your family, friends or your neighbors. This experience without light is not only a symbolic act of our commitment to save the planet. It is also a strong reminder that every day, every hour in our normal lives we can turn off the lights we don't need and disconnect those appliances when we're not using them.
So this Saturday, let's once again acknowledge our continuing commitment to actions that benefit the planet not only for one hour but in the years ahead!

Asia

Unsure future for city in shadow of nuclear plant

SOMA, Japan (AP)—Hidekatsu Sato stands in the doorway of his gutted house and looks out impassively at the sea as it laps up against the harbor wall just a few meters away. Born and raised here, he went to Tokyo to work as a plumber, then returned a few years ago to live out his retirement years.

"I came back here to die, and that's still my plan," the grizzled 73-year old said. "I'm not leaving."

With radiation leaking from a nuclear power plant near his city, he may not have that choice.

Jutting out into the Pacific Ocean on Japan's devastated northeastern coast, Soma—population 38,000—is a microcosm of the calamity that befell this country on March 11. Like dozens of other towns, Soma bore the full force of the earthquake, then was inundated by the towering tsunami that raced in behind it.

Now, it is struggling to cope with the unfolding crisis at the nearby Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex.

Soma sits in the shadow of the crippled facility that was badly damaged by the tsunami and has been leaking radioactivity into the air and sea and has forced tens of thousands of people to flee or hunker down indoors. Local crops and milk are contaminated, and there are fears that the future may hold more hardship than anyone here has ever known.

"I've never had much, and I don't need much," Sato said. "But I just don't know how this is ever going to end."

AP

Local residents return to their homes to salvage what they can find, Wednesday, March 23, 2011 in Soma, Fukushima prefecture, Japan.

Even without the concerns over radioactivity, it is hard to imagine what is ahead for Soma.

Its harbor, once a popular destination for sport fishermen and tourists, smells of death.

Rotting fish are strewn across the one main street that has been cleared enough to allow emergency vehicles through. Clams and crabs intended for sale on what everyone expected would be just another ordinary day are mixed in with the piles of timber and debris that were once people's homes, stores and schools.

Sato saw it all.

"It was like a freeway, everything was moving so fast," he said of the powerful wave. "Houses, boats, trucks—they all just flew by on the water. I escaped from my house to a little hill out back. We haven't seen anything like this for generations."

But Sato says it is what he can't see now that scares him the most.

"We Japanese grow up hearing stories about the horrors of radiation, about Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he said. "We, as a people, have a special fear of radiation. It's just so mysterious. It causes an irrational fear. We don't know what to think."

Shortly after the damage to the Fukushima plant became apparent, the government issued an evacuation order for all residents within a 6-mile (10-kilometer) radius of the six reactors, which provide a major source of power for millions of people in Tokyo.

That zone later became 12 miles (20 kilometers), and residents in an added ring of 6 more miles (10 more kilometers) were told to stay indoors. A flood of evacuees soon began streaming into Soma, which is just outside both rings.

"We are now taking in several hundred people from those areas," said Katsuhiro Abe, a Soma city official. "That's on top of about 2,000 of our own people who have no homes."

Abe stressed that—as far as the government's assessment goes—Soma, which is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away from the nuclear facility, is safe. Radiation levels are below what would be considered an immediate health risk.

Abe said the invisible threat bearing down on the city came as a surprise.

Soma was reasonably well-prepared for an earthquake. The size of the tsunami was more unexpected, but officials had been trained in how to respond if one hit. The nuclear crisis, however, caught them off guard. Abe said the city is now ready to evacuate everyone again if the situation at the plant deteriorates.

HK inquest faults PH in hostage deaths

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong inquest concluded Wednesday that Philippine officials contributed to or caused the deaths of eight tourists from the Chinese territory who were held hostage in Manila and gunned down by a disgruntled former police officer.

A jury at Hong Kong's coroner's court faulted Philippine authorities for not meeting the hostage-taker's demands quickly enough and lying to him. The jury said the bungled rescue operation also delayed medical treatment for two victims who might have been saved.

The panel also found after a 28-day hearing that Philippine officials aggravated tense negotiations by failing to block media coverage of the gunman's brother's arrest, which outraged him. They also failed to collect intelligence from released hostages and didn't dim the lighting around the seized tour bus, giving the gunman a good view of the police attack, according to the jury.

The eight deaths shocked this wealthy southern Chinese financial hub, where violent crime is rare, and strained relations between Manila and Beijing. A Philippine government investigation found that top officials overseeing the hostage situation were negligent, but President Benigno Aquino III chose disciplinary action instead of criminal prosecution, angering survivors and the victims' families in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kongers put their hopes in their local investigation instead, hoping it would more clearly assign blame. The inquest's findings, however, do not imply civil or criminal liability, but are merely meant to establish facts.

Tse Chi-kin, the older brother of slain tour guide Masa Tse, said he was pleased that the Hong Kong inquest held the Philippine government accountable. Masa Tse was one of the two victims whom the jury thought was denied timely medical treatment that could have saved his life.

"We welcome the verdict," the elder Tse said, adding that the Tse family was considering civil action against Philippines officials.

Survivor Chan Kwok-chu, whose hands were badly wounded, blasted the Philippine government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China sets execution date for Filipino drug mules

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China has set a March 30 date to execute three Filipinos convicted of drug trafficking in China despite appeals for clemency by the Philippine government, an official said Wednesday. One man and one woman will be executed in Xiamen, Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Eduardo Malaya said. Another woman is to be executed the same day in Shenzhen. The three were arrested separately in 2008 carrying packages containing at least 8 pounds (4 kilograms) of heroin. They were convicted and sentenced in 2009. Smuggling more than 50 grams of heroin or other drugs is punishable by death in China. The Philippines has no death penalty.

Bombing kills 5 at police station in Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber rammed a car loaded with explosives into a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, killing five and wounding more than two dozen people, police said. It was the second attack in as many days against police in Hangu, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that has been hit by militants many times over the past several years. The dead included one officer and four passers-by, said Rashid Khan, the top police official in Hangu. Most of the roughly 30 wounded in the attack in Doaba town were also passers-by, he said.

Indian prime minister on defensive over WikiLeaks

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took to the floor of both houses of Parliament on Wednesday to defend himself and his party from a growing furor over a WikiLeaks cable alleging government corruption. Opposition politicians spent hours in Parliament harshly criticizing Singh on Wednesday, a week after publication of the cable accusing the ruling Congress party of bribing lawmakers $2.5 million each for their support of a crucial 2008 nuclear deal with the United States. The cable said a party functionary showed a U.S. Embassy official two cases full of cash to be used to bribe lawmakers.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
March 23, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. S & B INC.	03/09/2011 STLRm-2011-X-018	SCUBA DIVING TOUR OPERATION	SAIPAN & TINIAN DIVE SITE	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(03/09/2011)*
2. YM MICRONESIA INC.	03/08/2011 STLRm-2011-X-019	FILMING	SPN, TIQ, ROTA, AND MNGHA	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(03/11/2011)*
3. ASIA MARINE SPORTS	03//10/2011 SLRm-2011-X-020	WAKEBOARD OPERATION	FISHING BASE	LAGOON & REEF	UNDER REVIEW*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

World

Gadhafi forces roll back as rebels try to organize

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—NATO ships began patrolling off Libya's coast Wednesday as airstrikes, missiles and energized rebels forced Moammar Gadhafi's tanks to roll back from two key western cities, including one that was the hometown of army officers who tried to overthrow him in 1993.

Libya's opposition took haphazard steps to form a government in the east, as they and the U.S.-led force protecting them girded for prolonged and costly fighting. Despite disorganization among the rebels—and confusion over who would ultimately run the international operation—coalition airstrikes and missiles seemed to thwart Gadhafi's efforts to rout his opponents, at least for now.

■ ■ ■

national council as part of an interim administration headed by another U.S.-educated academic, Mahmoud Jibril.

Tarhouni, who received his doctorate in finance and economics from Michigan State University, left Libya first in 1973 and then three years later for good. He returned to the country only after the rebellion against Gadhafi started on Feb. 15.

He acknowledged that the rebels have struggled with a slew of issues, including basic organization and putting forward a clearly defined image of the rebellion for the world.

■ ■ ■

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates acknowledged there is no clear end to the international military enforcement of the no-fly zone over Libya, but President Barack Obama said it "absolutely" will not lead to a U.S. land invasion.

From Ajdabiya in the east to Misrata in the west, the coalition's targets included Libyan troops' mechanized forces, mobile surface-to-air missile sites and lines of communications that supply "their beans and their bullets," said Rear Adm. Gerard Hueber, a top U.S. officer in the campaign in Libya.

He asserted that Gadhafi's air force has essentially been defeated. He said no Libyan aircraft had attempted to fly over the previous 24 hours.

"Those aircraft have either been destroyed or rendered inoperable," Hueber told Pentagon reporters by phone from the U.S. command ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

A doctor in Misrata said Gadhafi's tanks fled after the airstrikes, giving a much-needed reprieve to the besieged coastal city, which is inaccessible to human rights monitors or journalists. The airstrikes struck the aviation academy and a vacant lot outside the central hospital, the doctor said.

"Today, for the first time in a week, the bakeries opened their doors," the doctor said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals if Gadhafi's forces take Libya's third-largest city, 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli.

Neither the rebels nor Gadhafi has mustered the force for an outright victory, raising concerns of a prolonged conflict.

Gates said no one was ever under any illusion that the assault would last just two or three weeks. He had no answer when asked about a possible stalemate if Gadhafi hunkers down, and the coalition lacks U.N. authorization to target him.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen's embattled leader takes emergency powers

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Struggling to hold power after many of his allies abandoned him, Yemen's longtime leader on Wednesday escalated his confrontation with a rapidly expanding uprising and took on emergency powers that give him a freer hand to quell protests. A legislature full of his supporters granted President Ali Abdullah Saleh's request for a 30-day state of emergency, which suspends the constitution, bars protests and gives security forces far-reaching powers of arrest. The opposition called the vote illegal and vowed to press on with its campaign to topple Saleh's regime.

15 dead in new clashes in southern Syria city

DARAA, Syria (AP)—Syrian police launched a relentless assault Wednesday on a neighborhood sheltering anti-government protesters, fatally shooting at least 15 in an operation that began before dawn, witnesses said. At least six were killed in the early morning attack on the al-Omari mosque in the southern agricultural city of Daraa, where protesters have taken to the streets in calls for reforms and political freedoms, witnesses said. An activist in contact with people in Daraa said police shot another three people protesting in its Roman-era city center after dusk. Six more bodies were found later in the day, the activist said.

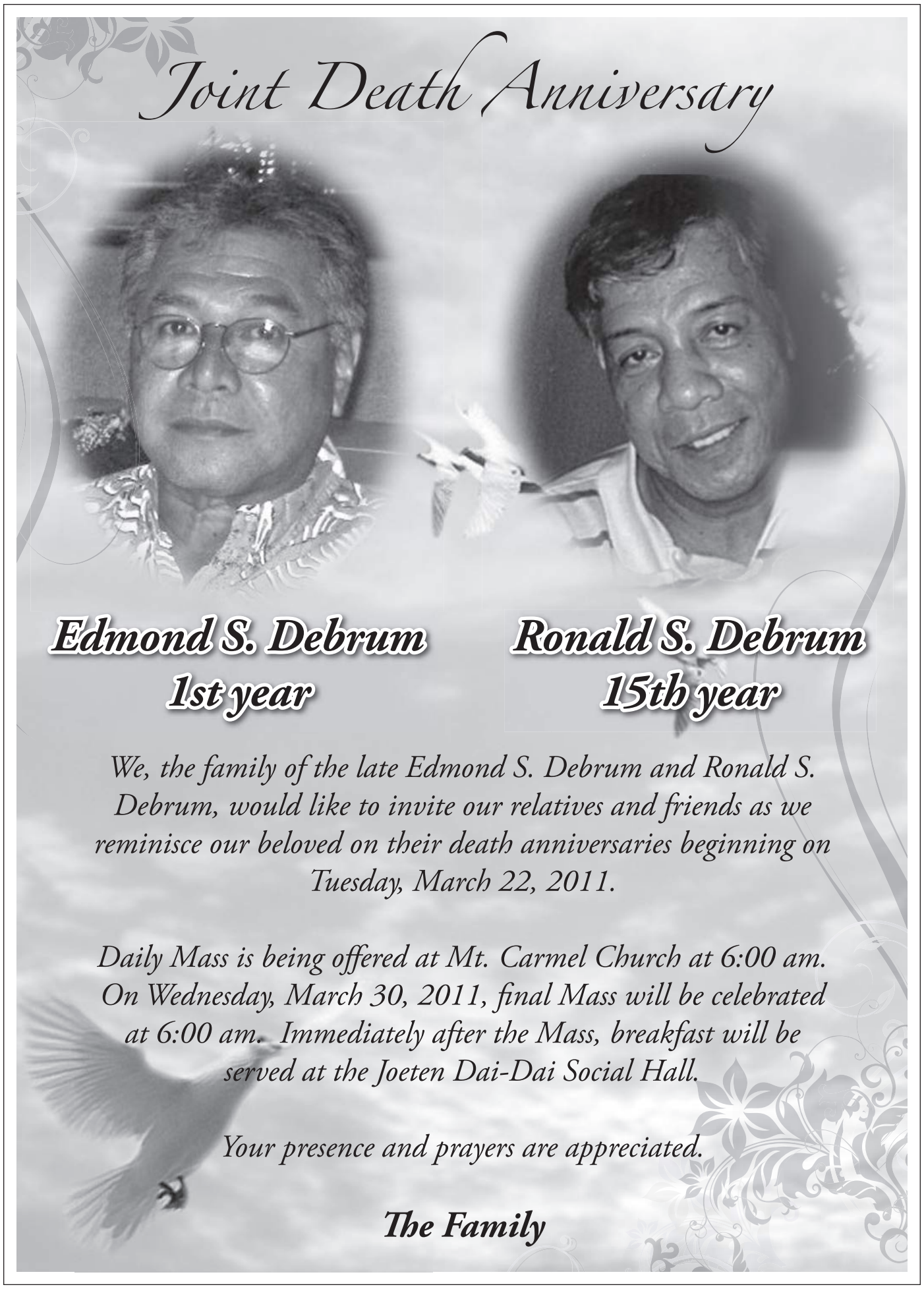
Israel retaliates for deadly blast, rocket attacks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli warplanes hit Hamas targets in Gaza early Thursday, retaliating for rocket attacks on Israeli cities, as tension peaked over the first deadly bombing targeting Israelis in Jerusalem in several years. A blast Israel quickly blamed on Palestinian militants ripped through a bus stop in Jerusalem on Wednesday, killing a woman, wounding two dozen other people and intensifying fears that a period of relative calm could be ending as hopes for a negotiated peace fade. Violence has been on the rise, with the knife slaying this month of a Jewish settler family as they slept and the deaths of civilians in Gaza by Israeli strikes Tuesday in retaliation for rocket fire from the Hamas-ruled strip.

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—A U.S.-based economist appointed finance minister in the Libyan rebels' first attempt at a government admits they have made mistakes, missed opportunities and shown disorganization—but he says they aren't short of cash, and they'll get better at their jobs.

Ali Tarhouni told reporters Wednesday that in trying to begin governing themselves, the rebels have to counter the effects of a decades-long ban on a basic element of self rule: Dictator Moammar Gadhafi banned public groups, so now the rebels have to start organizing from scratch.

Tarhouni, who teaches economics and finance at the University of Washington, was appointed to the post by the rebels'


Joint Death Anniversary
Edmond S. Debrum
1st year
Ronald S. Debrum
15th year
We, the family of the late Edmond S. Debrum and Ronald S. Debrum, would like to invite our relatives and friends as we reminisce our beloved on their death anniversaries beginning on Tuesday, March 22, 2011.
Daily Mass is being offered at Mt. Carmel Church at 6:00 am. On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, final Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 am. Immediately after the Mass, breakfast will be served at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall.
Your presence and prayers are appreciated.
The Family

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

WWII machine gun found in Lithuanian mail

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—Lithuanian customs and postal officials say they have found a fully functional machine gun dating from World War II, complete with ammunition, in a package at Vilnius International Airport. Officials said Tuesday that the German-made MG-42 machine gun was found after scanning a suspicious 20-kilogram (44-pound) package posted in Lithuania and bound for Germany. Customs spokeswoman Asta Mikeleviciute says it was the first time that customs authorities had ever uncovered such a parcel and an investigation has been launched. No evacuation of the capital's airport was ordered, but authorities were placed on alert.

Instant karma for suspected Idaho wallet thief

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Chalk it up to instant karma. An Idaho man suspected of stealing a wallet from the desk of a prospective employer has been arrested after calling police to report that his wallet was missing. The Idaho Statesman reports Boise police realized the man who reported the missing wallet matched the description of the suspected wallet thief and arrested 25-year-old Daniel Damico on suspicion of burglary and grand theft. Police say they believe Damico disposed of the stolen wallet, but used a credit card to buy tobacco at two stores. It was when he was leaving the second store Tuesday that he thought he may have dropped his own wallet. Police recovered the credit card and the stolen wallet. Officers suspect someone else found Damico's wallet.

NY judge jails man for lugging beer to DWI hearing

MONTICELLO, N.Y. (AP)—Authorities say a New York man appearing before a judge on a felony drunken driving charge arrived at court an hour and a half late, drunk and carrying an open can of Busch beer. Sullivan County Undersheriff Eric Chaboty says Keith Gruber of Swan Lake had four unopened beer cans in his bag Monday when he tried to walk through the metal detector at the county courthouse. The Middletown Times Herald-Record reports that Judge Frank LaBuda asked the 49-year-old Gruber if he enjoyed his "liquid lunch." Gruber said he did, then said he was sorry. The judge revoked his bail and sent him to jail, where he remained Tuesday. Gruber was arrested Dec. 27 in the town of Liberty and was out on $30,000 cash bail. He has prior DWI convictions. The judge dismissed Gruber's court-appointed lawyer Monday because Gruber refused to cooperate with him.

Police: Boy claimed shooting to cover ripped pants

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Police say a 14-year-old Utah boy was trying to cover up for falling and ripping his new pants when he reported a bullet grazed him. South Salt Lake police Sgt. Mikael Wersland told the *Salt Lake Tribune* that the teen reported the shooting Tuesday evening. Police say about 10 witnesses told them they did not hear any gunfire in the area at the time. Wersland says the boy "fell down and tore the knee" of his pants, but lied about being grazed by a bullet because he didn't want to get into trouble. The sergeant says the teen only suffered a "scrape where he fell down." The boy has not been identified. It was not immediately known whether he would be charged with any crime.

Boston turns former bathroom into eatery

BOSTON (AP)—A former public bathroom in an historic Boston park is being turned into a sandwich shop. Don't get grossed out. The 660-square-foot "Pink Palace" on Boston Common built in the 1920s hasn't been used as a restroom in decades. City officials announced Tuesday they have agreed to a 15-year lease with the Florida-based Earl of Sandwich chain for a takeout operation at the site. The goal is to open the shop later this year or early next year following renovations. Boston Parks Department Commissioner Toni Pollak says the project is a chance to preserve the historic mausoleum-like structure while bringing new life to the Common.

Oregon firefighters trained to give CPR to pets

ASHLAND, Ore. (AP)—Some Oregon firefighters and paramedics are now equipped and trained to give first aid to dogs, cats and other pets. The Daily Tidings reports that Ashland Fire & Rescue firefighters were trained last week to do CPR on dogs, cats, ferrets, gerbils and even reptiles that have inhaled smoke. All five department engines now carry oxygen masks for pets. Division Chief Greg Case says rescuing pets involved in fires helps the entire family. Firefighters treat people first and will help pets if possible. Veterinarian Dr. Alice Sievers says smaller animals can be placed inside the masks, while the devices can be fitted over the nose or beak of larger animals.

Turtle sparks fast-moving blaze in NYC apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—Fire officials say a lumbering pet turtle sparked a fast-moving fire in a New York City apartment after crawling out of its tank and knocking over the terrarium's heat lamp. Giovani, a 6-year-old African tortoise about the size of a basketball, survived. But officials say one firefighter and three police officers suffered smoke inhalation in Monday's fire in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Another turtle that lived in a water tank was killed. The New York Post says both reptiles resided in their owner's bedroom. Eighteen-year-old Mohamed Salem and his family were not home at the time. Fire officials say the heat lamp crashed to the floor, igniting a pile of art supplies, including thinner and paint. Within minutes, the Post reports, the fire spread through the third floor apartment.

Condom machine stolen in Washington state burglary

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP)—A condom machine has been stolen from a shuttered Washington state sports bar, where fixtures are being auctioned off. Police spokesman Mark Young also says an ATM machine was damaged in the break-in early Tuesday at the old Quarterback Pub. It's been closed for more than a year. The Bellingham Herald reports an auction company employee discovered the burglary.

Message of Appreciation

We the family of the late,

Isidro Rabauliman Ogarto

Lovingly known as "Kazu"

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to CHC ICU Doctors and Nurses, CHC Administration and Public Health staff, Santa Soledad Choir, Altar Servers, Sacristan and Priest, all families, relatives, friends and acquaintances, who in all kindness and generosity have contributed in one way or another to help our family in times of bereavement.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, and may God continue to help and guide us always.

Leovinia T. Ogarto, Children and Family

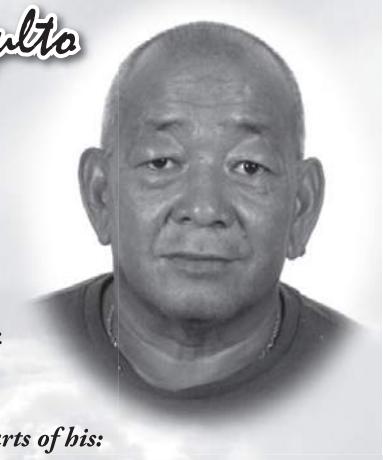
Death and Funeral Announcement

In loving memory of our dearly beloved

†Jesus Ricardo Palacios Agulto

Lovingly known as "Chu"

Born: December 07, 1954
Date of Death: March 20, 2011



In his new life, he joins his:
Daughter: *†Reneelynn Agulto Acosta*
Parents: *†Guillermo Concepcion Agulto & †Martha Camacho Palacios Agulto*
Brothers: *†Roman P. Agulto & †Guillermo P. Agulto Jr.*
Brothers & In-Laws: *†Ignacio P./†Chana S. Agulto, †Daniel P. Agulto, †Dolores P. Agulto*
His love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Rita Ramangmou Agulto*
Daugthers & In Laws: *Regina R. Agulto & Franko, Renita & Richard Win, Rebecca R. Agulto & Micheal Blas, Rita Jessica R. Agulto & Jefferey Guerrero*
Son: *Roman R. Agulto*
Brothers & In-Laws: *†Daniel P. Agulto & Mary Agulto (Children), Joe P. & Carmen Agulto, Francisco P. & Gora Agulto (Children)*
Sisters & Brother In-Laws: *Margaret A. Retan and Children, Merced A. /Agustine Camacho & Children, Maria A. & †Steve Stoll, Ana A. & Rick Tauton*
Father & Mother In-law: *Thomas & Maria H. Ramangmou*
Brothers & Sister In-Laws: *Thomas Ramangmou, Eddie Ramangmou, Francisco Ramangmou, Maureen Ramangmou, Maryanne Ramangmou, Ana, Marie Ramangmou, †Francis Ramangmou, Don Flocha, Rufina Roger*

Daily Mass is being held at 6:00PM from March 21, 2011 thru March 27, 2011 followed by the Nightly Rosary held at the San Vicente Church.

On March 28, 2011 at 7:30a.m., his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Maase
Rita Ramangmou Agulto, Children & Family

Science & Technology

Vacuum tubes and Bluetooth

By DON LINDICH
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This week's system combines the warm sound of vacuum tube audio with the wireless convenience of Bluetooth. Sound like a contradiction? Read on!

In the past I have written about the $799 Neuhaus Laboratories T-2 vacuum tube amplifier with USB connection. The recently introduced Neuhaus Laboratories T-1 is a hybrid design that combines transistors and vacuum tubes to provide warm tube sound in a smaller package selling for only $499. The T-1 has two analog connections, an optical digital connection, USB, and built-in Bluetooth. Pair your iPad, iPhone or other Bluetooth device with the T-1 and you can wirelessly stream music to your system from wherever you are in the room. You will have both a remote control and media server in the palm of your hand. Of course, you can connect your computer to the USB port as well. See the T-1 at www.neuhauslabs.com.

NEUHAUS LABORATORIES/MCT
Neuhaus Laboratories T-1 is a hybrid design that combines transistors and vacuum tubes to provide warm tube sound in a smaller package selling for only $499.

In my office I use a T-2 with Arx speakers from The Audio Insider, finding them to be a match made in Heaven. The exotic leaf tweeters of the Arx sing when combined with vacuum tube amplification. I can't think of a better match for the T-1, and the Arx A1 bookshelf speakers sell for only $249 at theaudioinsider.com.

Many would consider this elegantly simple mix of high tech and retro complete at $748. If you want to listen to the radio, either stream Internet radio from the Bluetooth device or add the Sony XDRF1HD tuner for $99. Want vinyl? The Audio-Technica AT-LP120-USB will plug right in for $199.98, or you can go up to the $499 Pro-ject Debut III USB for something a bit more audiophile.

STUMP THE GEEKS

Let PC get some sleep

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Question: When I am through using my desktop PC should I shut it down, put it to sleep or leave it on? I have been told by PC people at Hewlett Packard to shut the thing down when I get through using it and never put it to sleep. I often use it once a day, but sometimes I might go for a day or two without using it. What should I do?

ANSWER: Sleep is a power-saving state that saves all open documents and programs and allows the computer to quickly resume full-power operation in seconds when you want to start working again. Putting your computer to sleep is like pausing a DVD player, Microsoft's engineers say; the computer immediately stops what it's doing and is ready to start again when you want to resume working.

If it's just for a few hours or even overnight, Microsoft says it's usually more efficient to put your computer to sleep. The company gives several advantages to choosing sleep over shutting down:

All your work, including information about the programs you were using, is automatically saved. When you awaken your machine from sleep, you don't need to restart programs or reopen files as you would if you had shut down the computer.

Though Windows does use some power in sleep mode, it's very small: about one-tenth as much as it would need if you left the computer running. A mobile PC typically uses 1 percent to 2 percent of battery power per hour in sleep mode.

When Windows is asleep, it can still download and install updates and perform other routine maintenance tasks. For this reason, some companies require employees to put their computers to sleep rather than shut them down when going home for the evening.

However, if you don't plan to use your computer for several days or more, Microsoft says, you should shut it down.

As to whether you should leave it on to enhance the longevity of your computer, PCguide.com gives arguments for and against that philosophy. Learn more at tinyurl.com/geekspower.

TURN OFF THE SOUND

Q: I cannot find a way to turn off the Windows startup sound, which plays each time I boot up (or wake up) my PC. Two other people I know have the same problem. We'd all like to resolve this.

A: The following instructions are for Windows 7. In Vista or XP, select "Classic View" for the Control Panel and then "Sounds and Audio Devices." Follow the rest of the directions in the third paragraph below, provided by eHow.com.

Go to the "Start" menu and select "Control Panel." Choose "Hardware and Sound" and, under the "Sounds" heading, "Change System Sounds."

Look for "Sound Scheme" and choose "No Sounds" from the drop-down menu. If it gives you the option to save the scheme, click "No." Click "OK." This will disable the Windows startup sound, as well as other sounds such as mouse clicks.

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

How to clear a path for the pop-ups you want to see

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: When I played games at Pogo.com, a "pop-up" window used to tell me I was receiving 1,000 bonus points. But now I get a message that says I have pop-ups blocked. How can I unblock them?—Beverly Cook, Miami

ANSWER: If you've upgraded your Web browser lately, that's probably the issue. New browsers block pop-up windows because they're often used for advertisements. But you can clear the way for pop-ups by turning off or modifying your browser's pop-up blocker feature.

For Internet Explorer, click the "tools" heading, choose "Internet options" and click the "privacy" tab. Beneath "prevent most pop-up windows from appearing" uncheck the box in front of "turn on pop-up blocker."

Alternatively, you could leave the blocker on and make an exception for www.pogo.com. Click the "settings" button to the right, type www.pogo.com in the window beneath "address of website to allow," click the "add" button and click "close."

In Firefox, click the Tools heading, select "options" and click the "content" tab. Either uncheck the box in front of "block pop-up windows" or click the "exceptions" button to the right of it. If you click "exceptions," type www.pogo.com in the "address of website" window, click the "allow" button, then click "close."

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I've recorded my daughter's appearances on TV with a Dish Network digital video recorder (DVR) model 625. I want to copy the video to a VCR, but Dish says I can't do it with this model. Is there a way?—Janelle Le Mire, Miami

A: You can copy video from the DVR to a VCR tape by using composite cables, which end in three connectors that are red, white and yellow. Connect the DVR to the VCR, and the VCR to the TV. (See tinyurl.com/4erdubh.)

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have an HP laptop, model dv5-1125nr, on which the screen won't work. When I turn on the laptop, the fan runs and some keyboard lights flash, but the screen stays black. I tried connecting the laptop to another screen, but it also stays black.—Carlos Gutierrez, Miami

A: You did the right thing by testing your laptop with an external monitor. The results suggest there's a problem with the PC's main circuit board, or motherboard. If that's the case, you'd have to replace the $365 motherboard (see tinyurl.com/4rsyoz6 or tinyurl.com/45eet82.)

Because a new laptop costs about $400, it would be more practical to buy a new PC than to fix this one. In addition, there's no way to guarantee that a new motherboard will solve all your PC's problems.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

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Sucker Punch
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish
Action, Fantasy, Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Zack Snyder presents a hyper-violent spin on Alice in Wonderland for his directorial follow-up to Watchmen with this Cruel and Unusual Films production for Warner Bros. The plot details the action-packed fantasy world of a mental patient (Emily Browning), who escapes from her reality to deal with her abusive stepfather.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Chicldren's, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Astro Boy director David Bowers helms the follow-up film to 2010's big screen adaptation of Jeff Kinney's acclaimed Diary of a Wimpy Kid comic novels in this Fox 2000 production. Zachary Gordon stars as the titular character who takes on his older bullish brother, Rodrick, in the sequel penned by Gabe Sachs and Jeff Judah.

Limitless
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Thriller, Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The Illusionist's Neil Burger helms this adaptation of Alan Glynn's novel detailing what happens when a man stumbles upon a one-of-a-kind smart pill. Hairspray's Leslie Dixon provides the screenplay for the Universal production.

Paul
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
Comedy • Rated R

Battle: Los Angeles
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Red Riding Hood
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13

Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G

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Life & Style

Liz Taylor was an outsized presence in a petite frame

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In death, she is being heralded for her great beauty, iconic and legendary persona, tireless humanitarian work, and the compassion and optimism she exuded despite decades of physical ailments.

But Elizabeth Taylor was, above all else, a performer—a three-time Oscar winner, a radiant child star whose best work as an adult was her most splashy and scenery-chewing. While she may not have been the greatest actress of her generation in terms of pure talent and technique, she had an irresistible screen presence that kept audiences ravished by her films.

The contradictions alone were fascinating: She could seem demure yet seductive, aristocratic yet bawdy. That tiny voice and petite stature seemed at odds with the intimidating femininity that would define her glamorous aura.

When she was young, though—in early, family-friendly films such as "Lassie Come Home" (1943) and especially "National Velvet" (1944)—she possessed a startling and mature beauty for someone her age. Those mesmerizing eyes that luxurious dark hair and flawless skin—they were all there, even back then. It's as if she never had to suffer through an awkward period like the rest of us.

Under Vincente Minnelli's direction in "Father of the Bride" (1950), she got a rare chance to show off some comic ability as a young woman trying to put on the perfect wedding, even though Spencer Tracy, as her beleaguered father, gets the majority of the big laughs.

The following year, opposite a blue-collar Montgomery Clift in "A Place in the Sun" (1951), she was gorgeous, sophisticated, a vibrant image of idealized womanhood. When they first meet and she asks flirtatiously, "Do I make you nervous?" as he's trying to play billiards, there's really only one answer. But an evolution was occurring during this time in Taylor's career. The sweetness and freshness of her looks collided with the pain and anger that seethed within many of her characters.

One of her strongest performances came in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958), as the fragile and damaged but volatile Maggie. She was all curves, dressed in clingy white, alternately playing and pleading in that breathy Southern drawl. Watching her exchange Tennessee Williams' banter with Paul Newman in his peak made you want to hold your own breath.

The next year found her in another Williams adaptation, "Suddenly, Last Summer" (1959), as a young woman in danger after witnessing a tragedy (opposite Clift again). The playwright's work suited her—the tormented characters, the great, gothic theatricality of it all.

"I'm not like anyone, I'm me," she announces in a moment of defiant confidence in "BUtterfield 8" (1960). But as Gloria, the sassy, brassy, boozy, trashy, model-call girl, she also famously acknowledges, "I was the slut of all time!" Taylor is over the top in her big, confessional scene with Eddie Fisher, but still riveting to watch, the way she works the highs and lows of it. The performance would earn her the first of her two Academy Awards for best actress.

AP

This 1961 file photo shows actress Elizabeth Taylor in the film "Butterfield 8" in 1961.

And then ... there was the 1963 Joseph L. Mankiewicz epic "Cleopatra," which would become infamous not just for its scope (it's the most expensive movie ever made—$44 million—if you adjust for inflation) but for providing the place where Taylor's path scandalously crossed Richard Burton's. They'd go on to marry and divorce twice in real life and co-star in several movies together; this first on-screen pairing, however, was less than auspicious. When Taylor (as Cleopatra) demands that Burton (as Mark Antony) kneel before her, it's a moment that should be fraught with tension. Instead, it's impossible not to laugh out loud. The outlandish makeup and costumes were also a hoot.

But it was Mike Nichols who would get the best work out of Taylor in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966). She and Burton tear each other apart as the boozy and bickering husband and wife George and Martha. And Nichols, making his directing debut in an adaptation of Edward Albee's painfully honest play, gets up close and personal for the carnage. The glamour girl was long gone here, and the performance earned Taylor her second best actress Oscar. (She also received an honorary Academy Award for her humanitarian work in 1993.)

Screen work was scarce in the 1980s. But even in her last film role—which, sadly enough, was the 1994 live-action version of "The Flintstones"—that big personality was on full display. Her performance as Fred's mother-in-law earned her a Razzie Award nomination for worst supporting actress, but she definitely livens things up. She bursts into a party, all hair and fur and jewels, flashing those famous eyes and calling for a conga line when the situation gets awkward.

She was still irresistible, even then.

Reaction from across the world

"I am so sorry to hear that this great legend has passed. I admired and respected her not only as an actress but for her amazing and inspiring work as an AIDS activist. She was one of a kind."—*Madonna.*

"Elizabeth's legacy will live on in many people around the world whose lives will be longer and better because of her work and the ongoing efforts of those she inspired."—*Statement from former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.*

"I don't know what was more impressive her magnitude as a star or her magnitude as a friend. Her talent for friendship was unmatched. I will miss her for the rest of my life and beyond."—*Shirley MacLaine.*

"Our loss in the motion picture business with Elizabeth Taylor's passing is momentous. She was a lady who gave of herself to everyone. I know I consider it a great personal loss."—*Mickey Rooney, who starred opposite Taylor in "National Velvet."*

"She was and will always be an icon within the film and entertainment industry and she nurtured me and kept me tenacious with my continuing commitment and work regarding AIDS. I will miss her as I am certain so many that she befriended passionately."—*Dionne Warwick.*

"She was a true star, because she not only had beauty and notoriety; Elizabeth Taylor had talent. As a friend she was always, always there for me. I'll miss her for the rest of my life, but I was so lucky to have known her."—*Liza Minnelli.*

"She was passionate—and compassionate—about everything in her life, including her family, her friends, and especially the victims of the AIDS. She was truly a legend and we will miss her."—*Nancy Reagan.*

"She was the last of the true Hollywood icons, a great beauty, a great actress and continually fascinating to the world throughout her tumultuous life and career."—*Joan Collins.*

"She was an incredible talent, and yes, she had those unforgettable eyes. I greatly admire her humanitarian efforts which have touched so many lives. Elizabeth was a very dear, generous and loving lady."—*Eva Marie Saint.*

"The whole world has been in love with Elizabeth Taylor and I was fortunate enough to be one of them."—George Hamilton.

"She really, I think, is like the last of the movie stars. She said that there had never been a time in her life when she wasn't famous."—*Barbara Walters on "The View."*

"She earned our adoration for her stunning beauty and for being the very essence of glamorous movie stardom. And she earned our enduring love and respect for her compassion and her courage in standing up and speaking out about AIDS when others preferred to bury their heads in the sand."—*Elton John.*

"It's the end of an era. It wasn't just her beauty or her stardom. It was her humanitarianism. She put a face on HIV/AIDS. She was funny. She was generous. She made her life count."—*Barbra Streisand.*

"Elizabeth was the last great movie star. And a great human being. What I'll always remember about Elizabeth was her laugh. She would walk into a room looking like a princess and suddenly there would be this cackle that filled the room that would crack us all up. I'm so glad to have known her. It's a very sad day for me."—*Barry Manilow.*

"Elizabeth Taylor was the last of the Hollywood greats, and a fantastically charming woman."—*Tweet from singer George Michael.*

"I am profoundly saddened by the death of Hollywood's last great star of the '50s and '60s, a woman of extraordinary talent and hypnotic eyes. I will always hold her in my heart, proud of having earned the privilege of her applause at my concerts in America."—*Andrea Bocelli.*

"Elizabeth, thank you for all your help in the battle for HIV and AIDS. You will be missed by the world."—*Tweet from former basketball star Magic Johnson.*

"She leaves a monumental legacy that has improved and extended millions of lives and will enrich countless more for generations to come."—*Statement from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.*

"Elizabeth and I began our careers about the same time at MGM. Throughout her tumultuous life, she will be remembered for some unique and memorable work. And she will be ever remembered and appreciated for her forthright support of amfAR."—*Actress Angela Lansbury.*

"She was just a magnificent woman. She was a great broad and a good friend."—*Whoopi Goldberg on "The View."*

"Liz Taylor was an amazing woman and screen legend, she was an incredible friend to my brother at his side through some of his most difficult times and of course loved by his children and our family. She will live on in our hearts forever, my prayers go out to her family."—*La Toya Jackson.*

"I loved her. She hosted a huge party when 'Hello Dolly' first opened in Los Angeles. I remember the lavender roses and the aura of the personality. She said when you find the particular love of your life it is never forgotten. We loved you too Elizabeth."—*Carol Channing.*

'Idol' finalists thrill with Motown tunes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Naima Adedapo was on the move.

The funky 26-year-old dance instructor from Milwaukee injected African dance choreography into her lively rendition of Martha and the Vandellas' "Dancing in the Street" during the Fox talent competition's Motown-themed performance edition Wednesday. "Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez told Adedapo that her routine gave her the "first little goose bumps of the night."

"You definitely have that little extra something on the stage," praised Lopez.

Other singers who impressed the panel included unemployed 22-year-old rocker James Durbin of Santa Cruz, Calif., and 23-year-old spa concierge Jacob Lusk of Compton, Calif. Durbin wailed Stevie Wonder's "Living for the City," while Lusk belted out Marvin Gaye's "You're All I Need to Get By," which prompted Steven Tyler to rise from the panel for a hug.

"You know what was wrong with that performance?" asked Randy Jackson. "Absolutely nothing."

Some singers continued to misstep. Lopez again criticized the intensity of Stefano Langone, the unemployed 21-year-old singer from Kent, Wash., who crooned Lionel Ritchie's "Hello," and Jackson told Pia Toscano, the 22-year-old make-up artist from Howard Beach, N.Y., that he didn't want another ballad from her following Stevie Wonder's "All in Love is Fair."

AP

American Idol's Top Ten singers (left to right) Thia Megia, James Durbin, Scotty McCreery, Jacob Lusk, Haley Beinhart, Naima Adedapo, Pia Toscano, Stefano Langone, Lauren Alaina and Paul McDonald arrives at Muhammad Ali Celebrity Fight Night XVII on Saturday March. 19, 2011, in Phoenix.

"I know you can do it," said Jackson. "The next time bring something a little bit different to the thing."

Thia Megia, the soothing 16-year-old high school student from Mountain House, Calif., and Haley Reinhart, the growling 20-year-old college student from Wheeling, Ill., successfully recovered from their stumbles last week with their respective renditions of Martha and the Vandellas' "Heatwave" and The Miracles' "You've Really Got a Hold on Me."

"This is exactly the kind of singer we thought you were," Jackson told Reinhart.

Several of the "Idol" finalists made Motown hits their own, including 17-year-old high school student Scotty McCreery of Garner, N.C., with his Western take on Stevie Wonder's version of "For Once in My Life" and 26-year-old singer-songwriter Paul McDonald of Nashville, Tenn., with a Rod Stewart-like rendition of The Miracles' "The Tracks of My Tears."

"You're kind of the complete package," Lopez told McDonald.

Confidence was key for Lauren Alaina, the 16-year-old high school student of Rossville, Ga., and Casey Abrams, the 20-year-old film camp counselor of Idyllwild, Calif. She brought her strut and swagger to The Supremes' "You Keep Me Hangin' On." Abrams stomped through the audience while delivering Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine."

"I think you're the perfect entertainer," Tyler told him.

One of the top 11 singers will face elimination Thursday.

Lohan rejects judge's plea offer in theft case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan rejected a judge's offer to end a felony grand theft case early on Wednesday, signaling the actress intends to fight a case filed over a necklace she has been accused of stealing from a upscale jewelry store.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz never publicly detailed the terms of his offer to Lohan, but said if she pleaded no contest or guilty in the case, he would sentence her to jail. Prosecutors are also seeking jail time for the "Mean Girls" star, who was on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case when a store in Venice told police that Lohan had taken a necklace without permission in January.

Lohan's attorney Shawn Holley notified the prosecutor handling the case that Lohan would not be taking Schwartz's plea offer, district attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison said. Wednesday was the deadline for Lohan to notify Schwartz of her intentions and she will now be required to appear in court on April 22 for a preliminary hearing.

AP

Lindsay Lohan leaves Bowlmore bowling lanes in Times Square in New York on Friday, March 18, 2011.

The hearing will be conducted by a new judge - the fourth one Lohan has faced in the past year - who will determine whether there is enough evidence for Lohan to stand trial on the felony grand theft charge.

If the judge rules Lohan should stand trial, the actress could immediately be sentenced for a probation violation and sent to jail for the fourth time.

The actress, 24, has pleaded not guilty to the charge and denied wrongdoing.

Lindsay Lohan's father charged over fight with ex

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors have charged Lindsay Lohan's father with a misdemeanor domestic violence charge for an alleged attack on his ex-girlfriend.

Michael Lohan is due in court on May 23 and faces up to a year in jail if convicted. He was arrested late Monday by sheriff's deputies after his former fiancee, Kate Major, accused him of abusing her.

The 50-year-old has been in the Los Angeles area for months and recently attended a court hearing for his daughter where a judge threatened to send her to jail as she took a plea deal in a necklace theft case.

Lohan

The "Mean Girls" star and her father are reportedly estranged.

Michael Lohan couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

He has a history of arrests in New York over allegations of harassment from ex-girlfriends.

Lady Gaga flays Malaysia gay lyric censorship

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Lady Gaga has urged young Malaysians to protest the censorship of lyrics in her hit song that encourage acceptance of gays.

The Associated Press reported last week that radio stations in Muslim-majority Malaysia were playing edited versions of "Born This Way" that use garble to replace the lyrics: "No matter gay, straight or bi, lesbian, transgendered life, I'm on the right track, baby."

Lady Gaga criticized the censorship during a visit Tuesday to Google company headquarters in Mountain View, California.

"What I would say is for all the young people in Malaysia that want those words to be played on the radio, it is your job and it is your duty as young people to have your voices heard," the pop star said in an interview that was posted on YouTube.

"You must do everything that you can if you want to be liberated by your society. You must call, you must not stop, you must protest peaceably," she added.

Broadcasters have said they are being cautious with Lady Gaga's song because Malaysia's government forbids offensive content. They risk fines of up to 50,000 ringgit ($16,000) and other penalties for breaking the rules.

Malaysian gay rights advocates complain that the censorship is part of discrimination they face in everyday life.

These signs of abuse are your signal to leave

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Please reprint the list of signs of an abuser. I lost the list I had, but I think my husband is one. He calls me names like "stupid" and "slut." He tells me what clothes to wear, and if I refuse he threatens to cut them up. When we argue, he threatens to call 911 and have me locked up. He says everything that goes wrong is my fault.

We have been married 31 years. The stress is ruining my health. I have no money and no job. He stands in front of the door to keep me from leaving or going anywhere. Should I call a hotline or try to find a women's shelter?

END OF MY ROPE

DEAR END: While you haven't been battered, your husband's treatment qualifies as emotional abuse. The National Domestic Violence Hotline toll-free number is (800) 799-7233. Do not try to leave without calling it first.

The signs of an abuser are:

(1) PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT: Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) JEALOUSY: Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

(3) CONTROLLING: Interrogates you intensely (especially if you're late) about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

(4) UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS: Expects you to be the perfect woman and meet his every need.

(5) ISOLATION: Tries to cut you off from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble"; the abuser may deprive you of a phone or car or try to prevent you from holding a job.

(6) BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS AND MISTAKES: It's always someone else's fault if anything goes wrong.

(7) MAKES EVERYONE ELSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS: The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of, "I am angry" or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

(8) HYPERSENSITIVITY: Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just part of life.

(9) CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND TO CHILDREN: Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also, may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partner will also abuse children.

(10) "PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX: Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

(11) VERBAL ABUSE: Constantly criticizes you, or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you up with relentless verbal abuse.

(12) RIGID GENDER ROLES: Expects you to serve, obey and remain at home.

(13) SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS: Switches from sweet to violent in a matter of minutes.

(14) PAST BATTERING: Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says they made him (or her) do it.

(15) THREATS OF VIOLENCE: Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way" or "I didn't really mean it."

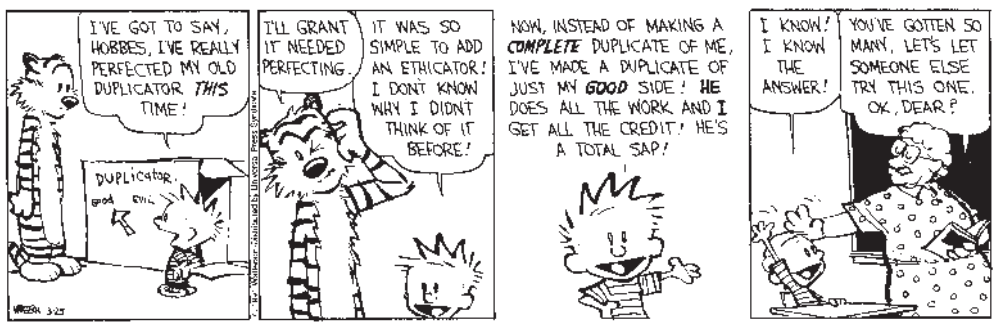
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

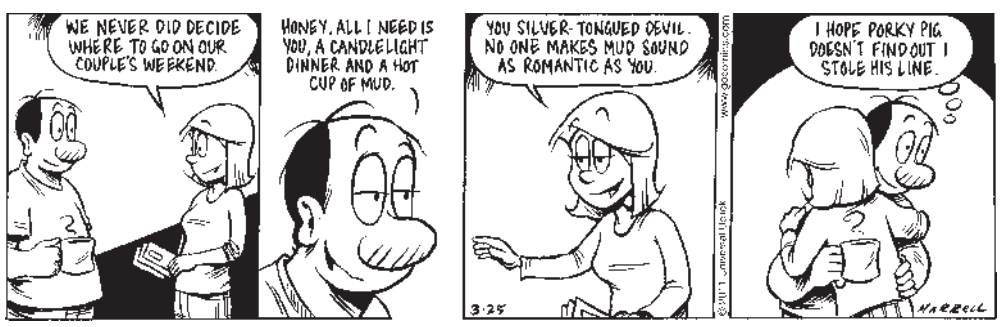

I'VE GOT TO SAY, HOBBES, I'VE REALLY PERFECTED MY OLD DUPLICATOR THIS TIME!
DUPLICATOR.
good
evil
I'LL GRANT IT NEEDED PERFECTING.
IT WAS SO SIMPLE TO ADD AN ETHICATOR! I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T THINK OF IT BEFORE!
NOW, INSTEAD OF MAKING A COMPLETE DUPLICATE OF ME, I'VE MADE A DUPLICATE OF JUST MY GOOD SIDE! HE DOES ALL THE WORK AND I GET ALL THE CREDIT! HE'S A TOTAL SAP!
I KNOW! I KNOW THE ANSWER!
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO MANY, LET'S LET SOMEONE ELSE TRY THIS ONE. OK, DEAR?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

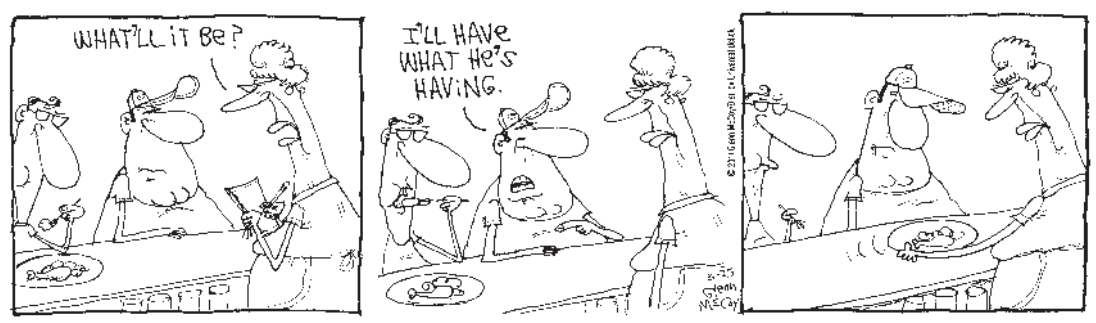
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE NEVER DID DECIDE WHERE TO GO ON OUR COUPLE'S WEEKEND.
HONEY, ALL I NEED IS YOU, A CANDLELIGHT DINNER AND A HOT CUP OF MUD.
YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL. NO ONE MAKES MUD SOUND AS ROMANTIC AS YOU.
I HOPE PORKY PIG DOESN'T FIND OUT I STOLE HIS LINE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

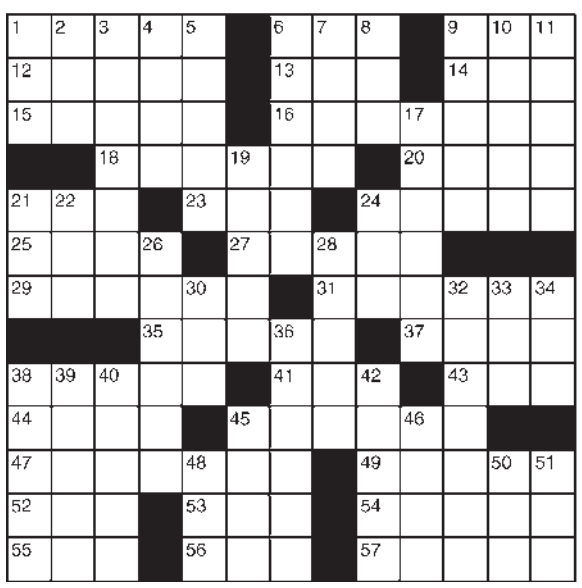
ACROSS
1 A to Z
6 Vitamin stat
9 Foolish one
12 Marble type
13 Chic no more
14 Pi follower
15 Water softener
16 Level of achievement
18 Vegas wedding site
20 Angel's prop
21 Brewery product
23 — Lanka
24 Soft and smooth
25 Pod dwellers
27 Bury
29 Map-Quest offerings
31 "Planet of the Apes" star
35 Stallone role
37 You
38 Fantastic
41 Conclusion
43 Scrap
44 Capri, e.g.
45 Leopard's cousin
47 Hat
49 Scrub
52 Writer Kesey
53 Torched
54 Humiliate
55 Tramcar load
56 Aviate
57 Hosiery shade

DOWN
1 Talk on and on
2 Have — at (try)
3 Mime extraordinaire
4 Hexagonal state
5 — hold 'em
6 Entice
7 Boring
8 — glance
9 "This Was — Nice Clambake"
10 "Jaws" villain
11 Somewhat melted, as ice cream
17 Desire for a drink
19 Spectrum producer
21 Spring mo.
22 Virgo neighbor
24 Bishopric
26 16-time Oscar nominee
28 Immodest swimwear
30 Listener
32 "Walden" writer
33 "— the fields we go"
34 Profit
36 Beast's love
38 Michael Moore film
39 Leading man?
40 Aircraft
42 Ticket
45 Penitentiary
46 Actress Jessica
48 Sprite
50 Venomous viper
51 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	I	S	C	■	C	H	A	■	A	F	A	R
I	N	T	O	■	O	U	R	■	B	I	L	E
S	C	A	R	■	M	E	T	■	A	S	I	F
H	A	N	S	O	M	■	Y	A	C	H	T	S
■	■	■	E	K	E	■	■	C	A	B	■	■
D	E	B	T	■	D	U	S	T	B	O	W	L
A	G	O	■	■	I	L	K	■	■	W	O	O
B	O	W	L	G	A	M	E	■	F	L	E	X
■	■	L	O	N	■	■	L	E	O	■	■	■
C	O	O	P	U	P	■	E	N	L	I	S	T
R	S	V	P	■	A	F	T	■	D	O	T	E
A	L	E	E	■	C	O	O	■	E	W	E	S
W	O	R	D	■	K	E	N	■	R	A	P	T

Yesterday's answer 2-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marcia Cross, 49; Sarah Jessica Parker, 46; Elton John, 64; Aretha Franklin, 69

Happy Birthday: Being outspoken will cause controversy but will also help you get what you want. Stand up for your beliefs even if it means an argument or battle that you wanted to avoid. This is not the time to back down when you are so close to making a difference to your community, a cause or even to your own future. Your numbers are 4, 12, 22, 27, 31, 37, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel or educational plans can be put into play. The more time spent doing things that will help you grow mentally or emotionally, the better your chance to raise your income. A move will lead to greater opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at what you can accomplish not what you cannot. Talk about your plans and ideas with someone who has vision and you will find yourself sitting in an excellent position. Don't let love mislead you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A rare opportunity to expand your business, hobby or interest will turn into something that pays off monetarily, as well. Favors will be granted and partnerships can be formed, ensuring that you are able to follow your course of action successfully. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Pick up any additional knowledge or skill required to finish a job. You have to protect your interest at work by going over and above the call of duty. Be open to suggestions and willing to try new ways of doing things. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a stab at something you've never done before and you will find you have a gift you didn't know you had. There is money to be made. Socializing or networking will pay off personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't fall short because you missed an opportunity. Build your portfolio and improve your assets and valued possessions. Making a property transaction or upgrading your current residence will pay off. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be drawn to unusual people and pastimes. Once you are sure you can afford what's being offered, you will enjoy endless possibilities, along with a chance to travel, learn and possibly change directions. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more emphasis on socializing or taking part in other interests. The information you gather and the people you meet will inspire you to get back to old goals you have wanted to develop. Alterations to an idea will be successful. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll move to your own beat. This is the perfect time to make yourself heard and to push what you want to achieve. Home improvement projects may not be welcomed but, with gentle persuasion, you will get your way. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be faced with opposition if you try to convince others to do things your way. Problems while traveling or dealing with people in a position of authority will arise if you don't abide by the rules. Avoid impulsive action. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can turn an old idea into a prosperous venture. It's time to take a stab at doing something that will help you become more independent. Speaking freely about your concerns and solutions will garner interest from people who can help you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let your emotions lead you into a perilous situation. Bide your time and wait until you see an opening that will allow you to peacefully move in a direction better suited to you. For now, just hone your skills. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a competitor and can always find a unique way to present and promote. You are a leader with a strong sense of justice.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		8				5		9
				2				
2			3		8			6
	8	7				3	9	
		2				4		
6			1		9			5
				6				
1		5				2		7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	7	1	6	4	2	3	5
5	2	6	3	8	7	4	9	1
4	3	1	2	9	5	8	7	6
7	6	5	8	3	9	1	2	4
2	4	8	7	1	6	9	5	3
3	1	9	5	4	2	7	6	8
9	5	4	6	7	8	3	1	2
1	8	2	9	5	3	6	4	7
6	7	3	4	2	1	5	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS **Solution: 7 letters**

B	N	F	F	D	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	A
E	L	A	R	R	E	T	Y	U	R	E	V	O	D	O
L	I	A	M	E	N	E	L	T	J	E	B	E	R	G
L	K	O	C	H	D	U	A	R	W	A	L	K	R	N
E	M	U	R	K	C	E	E	E	C	P	C	O	K	I
V	H	M	C	O	B	N	R	N	H	O	J	T	Ⓒ	M
U	U	U	C	R	N	E	E	I	Y	T	W	N	Ⓞ	A
E	A	T	L	E	U	A	A	R	K	E	O	P	Ⓥ	L
L	K	E	B	L	I	I	N	R	F	S	S	R	Ⓔ	F
E	O	R	U	A	S	L	S	O	D	S	B	R	O	T
P	O	O	D	T	R	T	A	E	T	U	U	E	E	D
H	H	B	N	L	U	R	E	M	S	L	T	N	R	J
A	D	R	O	M	O	T	E	P	A	B	A	Y	S	G
N	E	A	P	O	I	N	T	T	S	P	R	A	T	I
T	R	Y	G	B	O	R	G	S	T	E	D	A	A	R

©2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 3/25

Adelphi, Altona, Amalie, Arboretum, Barrett, Bays, Bellevue, Benner, Blackbeard, Christian, Coculus, Coki, Cove, Cowpet, Cruises, Dorothea, Dove, Drake, Duty, Elephant, Flamingo, Frederiksberg, Frenchman, Hull, Jersey, John, Krum, Long, Mail, Neltjeberg, Point, Pond, Raadets, Redhook, Ruyter, Sprat, Steps, Stumpy, Sunsi, Trygborg, Tutu, Walk

Yesterday's Answer: Goombay

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap. Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

WHATZIT Solution: Stiff upper lip

BUSH CUTTER REPAIR
Only $30 Service Promo
We buy & sell used bush cutters.
For lawnmower small engine
Please call 233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7455 / 7427

Attorney for Plaintiff.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ESTRELLA JUALAYBA JUMILLA, Plaintiff,	**FCD DI ACTION NO. 11-0056**
vs.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
JOSE ROLL D. JUMILLA, Defendant.	

Date: April 18, 2011
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: Honorable Perry B. Inos

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Plaintiff Estrella Jualayba Jumilla, by and through her counsel, F. Matthew Smith, will bring her verified Complaint for Divorce (filed January 27, 2011) before this Honorable Court for a hearing on **April 18, 2011 at 1:30 pm** or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.

SO NOTICED this 21st day of March, 2011.

/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Plaintiff

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR RENT/LEASE

House for rent/lease. As Lito, 4BR, 2 1/2 bth, unfurnished. For more info. pls. call 788-7109 after 5pm

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

Christian Dior
COUTURE

Established 1946 in Paris, **Christian Dior** is a leading luxury fashion house.
Christian Dior Saipan, Limited opened its doors in the Saipan DFS Galleria on May 1998.

We are seeking to fill the following position:

BOUTIQUE MANAGER

This position is to be responsible for establishing and maintaining customer service, overseeing the operations of the boutique ensuring maximum sales and profitability through merchandising, inventory, expense control, human resource management and staff development.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree (in Business, Management or related discipline)
- Management experience in a luxury retail environment
- Computer Literate
- Strong analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Result and detail-oriented

We invite you to submit your resume/apply in person to:

Christian Dior Saipan, Limited
DFS Galleria, Garapan
Attention: Brand Manager
angie.kim@gu.christiandior.com
Fax#: (671)646-0527

We offer an attractive compensation package and company paid health insurance.
All resumes/applications will be handled in the strictest of confidence.

DEAD LINE FOR SUMBISSION : MARCH 31, 2011
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Christian Dior is an Equal Opportunity Employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

One (1) Diesel Mechanic
Salary: $6.50 - $7.50 / hr
at least 5 years experience required.

You may contact PMIC, Power Plant 4 at Tel # 322-6181 or email: cve@pmic.us

Unit # 1 - 1,600 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 2 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 4 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 5 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 10 - 800 Sq. Ft.
Unit # 11 - 800 Sq. Ft.
For inquiries, Please call MMC at 235-8980
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
MMC 1 - CHALAN PIAO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-025 | Opening Date: Tuesday, 03/22/11 | **Revised Closing Date: Friday, 03/25/11**

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: Researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare accounts for resolution. Analyzes information to validate billings. Identifies and processes necessary billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan.

SALARY: $24,000.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; Un-graded, Un-classified.

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associates Degree or equivalent "plus" one to four years progressively responsible experience in Accounting or Finance, Administrative or Customer Service.. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work directions. Applicants May be tested.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

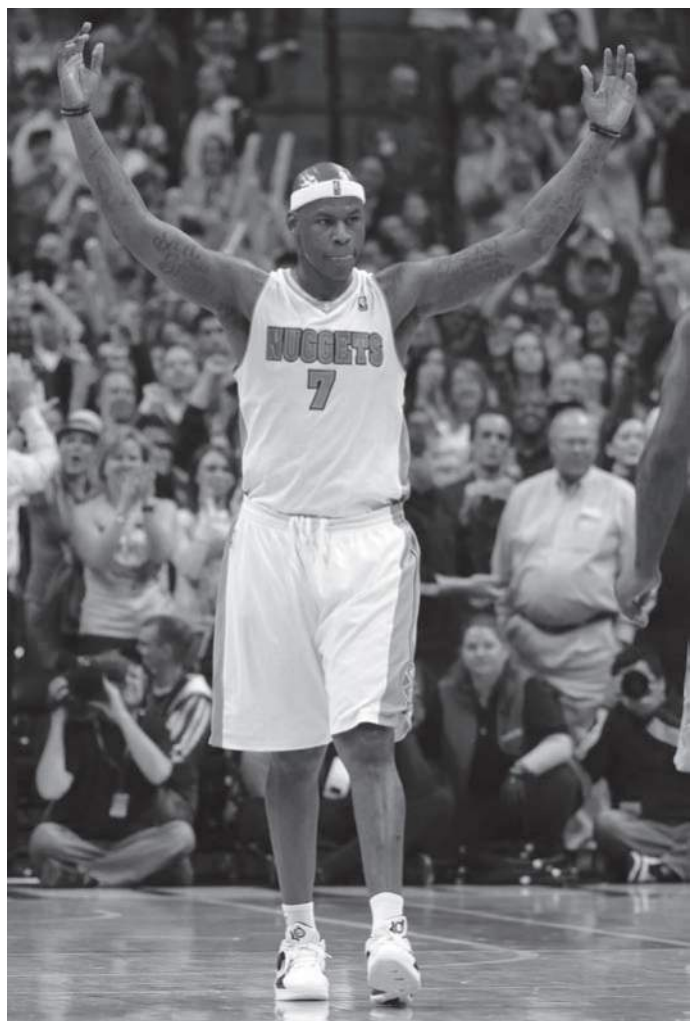
Find today's solution in this section

Nuggets edge Spurs, 115-112

DENVER (AP)—Wilson Chandler hit a go-ahead jump shot with 29.3 seconds remaining to lift the Denver Nuggets to a 115-112 win over the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday.

Up by five at the half, the Spurs took a 93-90 lead into the fourth quarter and stretched it to 98-91. That's when the Nuggets countered with an 11-0 flurry that put them in front 102-98 for their first lead since the game's opening moments. Al Harrington had 3-pointers to start and finish the flurry.

The Spurs were playing their first game since losing Tim Duncan indefinitely to an ankle sprain. Rookie center Tiago Splitter got the start in place of Duncan and had a quiet night, scoring 4 points and remaining on the bench after picking up his fourth foul in the third quarter.



AP

Denver Nuggets forward Al Harrington (7) celebrates during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs Wednesday, March 23, 2011, in Denver.

Grizzlies 90, Celtics 87

In Boston, Memphis held on for a vital win over Boston, which missed a late opportunity to send the game to overtime and move back to the top of the NBA's Eastern Conference.

Memphis' Marc Gasol stole the ball and hit a layup with just over a minute left to put Memphis ahead 88-85. He missed a pair of free throws with 4.6 seconds left, giving Boston a chance to draw level, but Paul Pierce missed an off-balance 3-pointer that would have tied the scores.

Gasol scored 11 points with 11 rebounds and Zach Randolph had 13 points and eight rebounds for the Grizzlies, who solidified their hold on the eighth and final playoff spot in the West. Memphis is just half a game behind seventh-placed New Orleans.

Pierce scored 22 for Boston, which missed a chance to move into a tie with Chicago for best record in the East.

Thunder 106, Jazz 94

In Oklahoma City, the hosts dropped a depleted Utah team below .500 for the first time since early November.

Russell Westbrook scored 31 points and Kevin Durant added 29 for the Thunder.

The Jazz played without starting point guard Devin Harris because of a strained hamstring, and Andrei Kirilenko sat out the second half after bruising a nerve in a knee. That proved to be too much to overcome.

Al Jefferson had 32 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Jazz, who dropped four games behind Memphis for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with 10 games left.

Magic 111, Knicks 99

In New York, Orlando made it four straight wins by stretching its dominance of New York.

Dwight Howard had 33 points and 11 rebounds, while Jameer Nelson added 19 points for the Magic, who held Amare Stoudemire to his worst game this season and beat the Knicks for the sixth straight time.

Carmelo Anthony had 24 points for the Knicks (35-36), who trailed by only a point after three quarters but fell below .500 for the first time since Nov. 27.

76ers 105, Hawks 100

In Philadelphia, the home team went on a 25-6 run to open the fourth quarter, turning the game and beating Atlanta.

Lou Williams scored 17 points while Andre Iguodala and Thaddeus Young each had 16 for the 76ers. Williams and Young keyed the Sixers' rally off the bench in the fourth. Philadelphia was down 10 late in the third quarter before an 11-0 run early in the fourth fueled the comeback.

Josh Smith had 33 points and 12 rebounds for the slumping Hawks. Smith's 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds left pulled the Hawks within three but Iguodala hit two free throws to clinch the win.

Heat 100, Pistons 94

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Dwyane Wade scored 24 points to help Miami rally for a win over Detroit.

Chris Bosh had 23 points for Miami, which has won six of seven.

The Heat trailed by 11 late in the third quarter before Mike Miller made a 3-pointer in the final seconds. Miami then scored the first 15 points of the fourth to take an 88-81 lead.

Detroit had the ball down by four in the final minute, but Greg Monroe missed a layup, forcing the Pistons to foul.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 27 points.

Rockets 131, Warriors 112

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 34 points to power Houston to a fifth straight win, defeating Golden State.

Chuck Hayes got his first career triple-double, notching 14 rebounds, 13 points and 11 assists for the Rockets, who remained two games behind Memphis for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dorell Wright had 34 points for the Warriors.

Pacers 111, Bobcats 88

In Charlotte, Indiana overcame Charlotte to create some breathing room over one of their closest competitors for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot.

Danny Granger scored 33 points and Tyler Hansbrough added 24 points for the Pacers, who moved three games ahead of Charlotte for eighth place.

The Pacers turned a 12-point, second-quarter deficit into a rout behind the hot-shooting Granger, who scored 25 points in a 16-minute stretch bridging the second and third periods.

D.J. Augustin scored 17 points for the Bobcats, who lost all four games against Indiana this season.

Suns 114, Raptors 106

In Phoenix, the hosts rallied from a 13-point third-quarter deficit to beat Toronto.

Aaron Brooks energized a tired, ailing Phoenix team with 25 points and hit the biggest shot of the game, a 3-pointer from the left corner with 54.9 seconds left to play that gave the Suns a 110-105 lead.

The Suns, playing the second of back-to-back set games only about 20 hours after a triple-overtime road loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, struggled with their shooting until late in the game and played shorthanded throughout.

Kings 97, Bucks 90

In Milwaukee, Sacramento put a severe dent in Milwaukee's fading playoff hopes.

Marcus Thornton scored 27 points and Beno Udrih added 25 as the Kings bounced back from a 40-point annhilation by Chicago on Monday; their heaviest in two years.

Milwaukee fell three games behind Indiana for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference with 12 left to play.

Milwaukee's Carlos Delfino scored 30 points for the second consecutive game to again match his career high, but had 22 of them in the first half.

Clippers 127, Wizards 119, OT

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin posted his first career triple-double to help Los Angeles defeat Washington in double overtime.

Griffin finished with 33 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, Eric Gordon had 32 points and Randy Foye hit a clinching 3-pointer in the final minute for the Clippers.

Wizards guard John Wall tied it with 19 seconds left, and Griffin missed a 3-point attempt at the other end with a second on the clock. Eric Gordon sent it into a second OT for the Clippers with a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left.

Wall led Washington with 32 points and 10 assists.

Nets 98, Cavaliers 94, OT

In Cleveland, New Jersey scraped only its fifth road win of the season by edging Cleveland in overtime in a match of two teams winding down miserable seasons.

Kris Humphries grabbed a career-high 23 rebounds and made several big plays in overtime, while Jordan Farmar's two free throws with 3.8 seconds left helped seal it for the Nets, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Ramon Sessions had 21 points for the Cavaliers, who have lost seven in a row at home.

Former players Flutie, Kelly recall 18-game grind

By JOHN WAWROW
AP SPORTS WRITER

Doug Flutie remembers feeling how his arm was ready to fall off during his one year in the USFL. Nate Newton recalls how he did absolutely nothing but rest for an entire month after playing his two USFL 18-game regular seasons.

And former CFL quarterback Danny McManus can still see the telltale signs of blurry-eyed fatigue that set in on rookies when Week 13 rolled around in Canada with five games still left to play.

For those wondering what the effects might be if the NFL expands from 16 to 18 regular-season games, take it from those who've been through it: It's a grind.

"From week to week, game plan to game plan, there's the physical part, but the mental part of the preparation is what wears a guy down," said Newton, a former star offensive lineman, who began his pro career in 1984 with the USFL Tampa Bay Bandits. "You're going to blow a fuse. It's just bound to happen."

Newton got a taste of playing an 18-game season before going on to become a six-time Pro Bowl selection with the Dallas Cowboys.

McManus, who played for Florida State, spent 17 seasons in the CFL where 18-game schedules have been the norm since 1986.

"You'd see it around Week 13 through Week 16, these guys are just dragging themselves into the locker room," said McManus, who retired in 2006 and is now the head U.S. scout for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. "There's no doubt it's a grind to go 18 weeks. And we used to do it going 18 weeks straight."

Of course, that led to some unorthodox recuperating methods.

"The saying we have up in Canada is we ice from the inside out," McManus said, laughing. "And that's because of a lot of that Canadian beer up there. That's the quickest way to get into the muscles, to ice from the inside out."

These are among the sobering messages from several ex-USFLers and CFLers—rounded out by Hall of Famer Jim Kelly, who broke in with the USFL's Houston Gamblers in 1984 before starring for the Buffalo Bills—with firsthand knowledge of playing 18-game seasons.

All agreed the expanded schedules required a big adjustment from players.

And Kelly even wondered whether the NFL is using the 18-game schedule as a ploy in labor talks, which are now on hold after breaking down two weeks ago.

"It's almost like they're holding it over the players so they at least have something to give back," Kelly said. "This is my personal opinion."

Ploy or not, the NFL went into negotiations with a desire to expand its regular season for the first time since going from 14 to 16 games in 1978.

In going to 18 games, the NFL would eliminate two preseason games in exchange for adding two regular-season games with the prospect of generating more revenue.

NFL players have balked at the proposal.

They've complained that an expanded schedule would increase the risk of injuries and, as a result, have the potential of shortening careers, thus cutting into their money-earning potential and reducing their retirement benefits.

Players have also fear how much two more games would cut into their offseasons, which are already filled with mandatory and voluntary minicamps and workout programs from March to June.

The NFL did back off on its proposal in its last offer before talks broke down. The NFL proposed maintaining the 16 regular-season games and four preseason games for at least two years, with any switch to 18 games being negotiable.

Injuries, fatigue and weather conditions—imagine how many fans would show up to a Week 19 mean-nothing game in January in wintry Buffalo, Kelly wondered—were among concerns expressed by the each of 18-game veterans.

For Newton, an 18-game NFL schedule would require the league to expand its rosters from 53 to at least 60 players. And teams would be keen in stocking their lineup with at least two capable running backs and two quarterbacks to guard against injuries.

Flutie didn't even complete his one USFL season with the New Jersey Generals. His year ended 15 games in when he broke his collarbone after being sacked by Reggie White. Then again, Flutie's throwing arm was already feeling shot by then.

Bonds' friend: I saw trainer holding syringe

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds looked at the witness stand with a blank expression as a childhood friend and former business partner described how baseball's biggest star walked into the master bedroom at his spring training home along with trainer Greg Anderson, who had a syringe with a needle.

A few minutes later, Bonds and Anderson walked out.

Steve Hoskins testified in federal court Wednesday that he never saw Anderson inject Bonds. The question for the jury will be whether Hoskins' description, which the defense began to challenge later in the day, is a path toward convicting Bonds of lying when he told a grand jury seven years ago he never knowingly took steroids.

Speaking softly and fidgeting a bit in the witness chair, Hoskins gave the first dramatic testimony in the trial of the home-run king, who faces four counts of making false statements and one count of obstruction.

Hoskins said he witnessed scenes of Bonds and a needle-bearing Anderson entering a bedroom once or twice each spring training for three straight years starting in 2000.

A partner with Bonds in a memorabilia business, Hoskins said the home-run hitter asked him to inquire about the effects of the steroid Winstrol in 1999, at around the time Bonds was having left elbow surgery April 20. Hoskins said he went to Dr. Arthur Ting, who is expected to testify later in the trial, and brought a sheet of information back to the slugger. Hoskins said he planned to go to Bobby Bonds, the defendant's father and a former major leaguer himself, to express his suspicions.

"I was concerned in 1999 after speaking with Dr. Ting about it," Hoskins testified. "In 2003 I was even more concerned because it was getting—it just seemed to be getting out of hand."

This was the period when Bonds noticeably bulked up and started posting unprecedented power numbers for the San Francisco Giants. The seven-time NL MVP hit a season-record 73 homers in 2001 en route to a career record 762 by the time of his last season in 2007—months before he was indicted for his 2003 grand jury testimony.

Hoskins, who also helped Bonds get his equipment in order at the ballpark, said Bonds' body changed in this period—prosecutors allege the transformation was caused by steroids.

"His shoe size just got bigger," Hoskins said. "His glove size changed. ... His body weight changed. He got heavier and bigger."

Bonds, in a lighter gray suit than previous days and a striped tie, took copious notes during the testimony of Hoskins, who followed federal agent Jeff Novitzky to the stand and became the second witness in a trial expected to last about a month.

Both prosecutors and the defense played for the jury portions of a recording Hoskins secretly made of a conversation that took place in front of Bonds' locker in 2003. Hoskins said he put an Olympus digital recorder in a pocket and recorded Anderson "to show Bobby actually what really was going on."

"That was the only way to prove it to him," Hoskins said.

Hoskins never played the conversation for Bobby Bonds, who by 2003 was ill with cancer and died that August.

Much of the recording was first released by the prosecution in February 2009. At one point, Anderson is heard discussing what the government alleges are designer steroids he supplied to Bonds. "But the whole thing is ... everything that I've been doing at this point, it's all undetectable," he said.

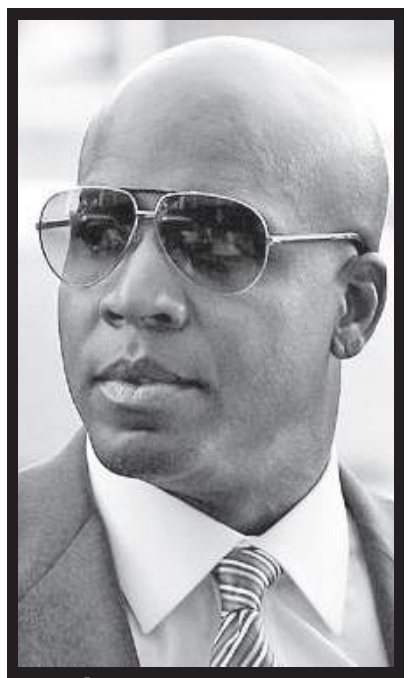
Voices on the recording were muffled, and during the portion played by the prosecution, jurors were given transcripts to aid them. Hoskins also admitted he secretly recorded conversations with Ting and a lawyer for the slugger, Laura Enos. Hoskins said the Ting recording had disappeared.

Hoskins said earlier that Bonds became angry when speaking near the ballpark batting cage in 2002 because "Greg would not give Barry a shot."

"Barry just said that if Greg wouldn't give him the shot, he'd give it to himself," Hoskins said under questioning from Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew A. Parrella.

Jurors took notes as Hoskins spoke. He directed his answers to the prosecutor, unlike Novitzky, who turned and addressed the panel.

Hoskins was a friend and go-fer to Bonds, besides being a business partner. He acknowledged giving thousands of dollars in cash to two women Bonds was dating.


Bonds

Defense lawyer Allen Ruby, in the first 2 1/2 hours of a cross-examination that is to continue Thursday, tried to build an argument that Hoskins came forward against Bonds only after the player terminated their joint business on March 27, 2003. While Hoskins had previously said the conversation with Anderson took place in March, Ruby played a portion of the recording in which Bonds' early season slump was discussed, an indication the conversation took place in April—after Bonds told Hoskins their business relationship was over.

After giving answers that differed from his grand jury testimony several years ago, Hoskins claimed there were errors in both the grand jury testimony and a government report on an April 2005 meeting he held with prosecutors. The report of that meeting, according to Ruby, says Hoskins claimed to have seen Bonds injected.

The defense attacked Hoskins' credibility by accusing him of attempting to extort Bonds, which Hoskins denied. Ruby also made a point that after Bonds went to authorities alleging Hoskins had forged his signature, the U.S. attorney's office in Seattle—where the case had been referred—never interviewed Hoskins. At around the same time, Hoskins began cooperating in the investigation into Bonds by the U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco.

Hoskins said that before his falling out with Bonds, he had the authority to sign the player's name on contracts. In one deal, in which Hoskins' company Kent Collectibles was to be paid $400,000 by Goldin Sports Marketing, Ken Goldin and Hoskins instead arranged for Bonds to receive a Bentley automobile.

"His accountants would not let him buy a car at value," Hoskins said.

Despite giving evidence against Bonds to the government, Hoskins said he admired the player.

"I'd never want to get Mr. Bonds in trouble in any way, shape or form," he said, calling him "a very good friend" and "a very good person."

"I was the one trying to stop him from taking steroids because I thought it was bad for him," Hoskins said.

TWO

From Page 32

ley's now hold similar 0-1-1 win-draw-loss slates for a tie for third place. Matansa is in second spot with a 1-0-1 card, while Paire is at the bottom of the five-team field with a 0-0-1 mark.

Meanwhile, Shirley's FC recently received 15 balls from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and the club is thankful for the donation.

Northern Mariana Island Football Association, through its general secretary Edward Salas, donated 15 soccer balls to Shirley's Football Club last Feb. 23. The soccer balls were received by Shirley's Football Club secretary Puy Macario. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GIRLS U15
Matansa 1, Paire 0

Matansa broke into the win column after a draw in its first game to take the lead in the girls U15 division.

Matansa, which drew MP United, 3-3, on March 12, edged Paire, 1-0, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Andrea Camacho scored the lone goal in the match for her second goal of the season. The game was Paire's first.

In the other girls U15 game, Tan Holdings and MP United had a scoreless draw.

BOYS U18

MP United 5, Matansa 2

MP United completed a sweep against Matansa at the Oleai pitch after a 5-2 win in the boys U18 game.

The victory improved MP United's record to 2-0-0 and kept them in top spot in the four-team field.

Paul Jin Han Yoon had a hat-trick for MP United, while Stacy Macaranas and Diego Taken Han Yoon tallied one goal apiece. Matansa drew its two goals from one player, whose name was not provided in the score sheets at press time.

Paire 4, Independents 1

After losing its season debut, Paire bounced back with a 4-1 spanking of Independents.

Paire, which bowed to MP United in the league's opening, 2-4, gained three goals from Mason Fruit and one from Evert Van Der Maas to hand IFC a 0-2 start.

SUBLEMENTE

From Page 32

joined the open division, battling Gardner and several other Korean pros. He placed 19th overall and was the second Saipan finisher behind Mieko Carey, who was second in the women's division with her 3:27:30.

Sublemente logged 43:53 (52nd) in the swim, 1:53:05 (19th) in the bike race, and 1:11:35 (20th) in the run split. He was the 10th finisher in the open division, joining Gardner and eight Koreans in the Top 10.

In the 40 to 44 division, Tenorio took the No. 2 spot behind Korea's Mun Sang Hwang (3:38:07), while Mister placed sixth. Other finishers in the said age group were Yu Hun Park (3:54:58), Makoto Maruyama (3:57:04), Hiroyuki Koda (4:05:32), Jun Hyung Park (4:23:54), and Myeong Cheol Park (5:19:28).

In the 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 divisions, Raul Truijillo (5:54:29) and Jung Wook Kim (4:21:12) were the top finishers, while Jung Yul Jang led the 35 to 39 age group with his time of 4:09:49. Saipan's Brad Ruszala was in the 35 to 39 division and placed fifth (4:48:48) behind Woen Young Jung (4:21:11), Ki Ho Kang (4:36:19), and Gyeong Mun Noh (4:43:28).

The 45 to 49 age groups had the most finishers with 17 with Chang Su Lee (93:46:00), Kyung Ho Choi (3:57:23), and Young Keun Lee (4:04:34) completing the Top 3.

In the 50 to 54 age group, the Top 3 placers were Dong In Park (3:56:24), Kijong Nam (4:27:24), and Jae Jyung Choi (4:43:47). Hyo Sun Lee ruled the 55 to 59 age group with his 4:42:10, beating Kanichi Yoka (5:22:38) and Jae Kwang Cho (5:26:09). In the 60-and-above, Haruo Yamada was the lone finisher at the 5:30:25 mark.

In the women's division, Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa completed the race in 4:30:53 to win the 40 to 44 age group, while other age group winners were Sayuri Takemura (5:45:32/45 to 49), Julia Lendvai (4:57:41/50 to 54), Denise Marriner (5:15:53/55 to 59), and Nana Umebayashi (4:42:21)/25 to 29).

SALTY'S

From Page 32

Jonathan Sonoda led off with a homerun and the other runs came in off four hits and a double by Chris Alepuyo.

Salty's pulled within a run at the start of the third off an RBI base knock by Aldan, but Familia's Reyes answered with a solo shot in the bottom frame.

Then after a scoreless fourth, Salty's took an 11-7 lead in the top of the fifth off a couple of RBI singles by Thomas Joab and Eric Cabrera, an error, and a three-run blast by J.D. Dikito.

Familia fired back and tied the game at 11-all in the bottom half off a three-run homer by Reyes and an RBI rip by Greg Camacho.

Salty's pressed on and managed a four-run tear with two outs in the top of the sixth with Aldan hitting a two-RBI single.

Familia pulled within a run, 14-15, in the bottom frame off an error and a pair of RBI singles by Flores and Reyes, but Salty's added an insurance run in the top of the last inning before forcing a 1-2-3 inning for the win.

Salty's Aldan batted 4-for-4 with a homerun with four RBIs and two other runs, while Familia's Reyes batted 4-for-4 with a pair of homers and five RBIs in the loss.

The win was Salty's fifth in seven games and the team is currently positioned alone in third place in the standings. Familia, meanwhile, is stuck with just a win after eight games.

X-Clusive 8, G-Ballers 7

X-Clusive came alive late, both offensively and defensively to overcome G-Ballers and now holds a strong 4-2 card. The loss dropped G-Ballers to 3-4.

G-Ballers struck first in the top of the second inning with a run off a sacrifice fly by Greg Pangelinan and went ahead 7-0 in the top of the third off an error, a solo shot by Jude Dickinson, and a pair of two-run homers by Rusty Santos and Jun Salalila—not in that order.

X-clusive managed three runs in the bottom frame off a pair of RBI singles by John Reyes and J.J. Cabrera and a solo homer by Poland Masaharu and pulled within three runs, 4-7, in the bottom of the fourth off an RBI base rip by Ralph Yumul.

Then after a scoreless inning and a half, X-Clusive's Gloyd Martin made it a one-run game for his team, 6-7, with a two-run bomb in the bottom of the sixth frame.

G-Ballers went three up and three down for a second time in a row to start the seventh and X-Clusive mustered the two runs it needed in the bottom of the last inning off an RBI single by Roland Sablan and a walk off base hit by Cabrera. Cabrera knocked in John Reyes who belted a clutch triple to put himself at the front door.

Cabrera batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs.

Berdax 17, Your Balls 16

Berdax fought from behind all night, but it paid off with a last inning push to get them pass Your Balls in the last inning of regulation.

Berdax evened its record to 3-3, while Your Balls dropped to a pair of wins with three losses.

Berdax took the lead 3-0 in the bottom of the first inning off a three-run shot by Ben Taisacan, but Your Balls tied the game in the top of the second off a couple of errors and an RBI single by Steve Igisomar.

Then Your Balls forced Berdax 1-2-3 in the bottom frame and pulled ahead, 7-3, in the top of the third off four hits and a three-run blast by Giovanni Ayuyu.

Berdax's Jack Guerrero delivered a two-run homer in the bottom frame to make it a one run game, 6-7.

Then Your Balls' Josh Arriola nailed a solo shot in the top half of the fourth before his team held Berdax in the bottom and went ahead 10-5 off three hits in the top of the fifth.

Berdax got a run back off three hits in the bottom frame, but Your Balls doubled up Berdax, 12-6, in the top of the sixth with a pair of solo homers by Oliver Secharmidal and Andy Maratita.

Down six runs with six outs left in regulation, Berdax ignited an eight-run rally in the bottom frame to take the lead.

Taisacan drilled a two-run shot and Larry Robert an RBI single before Jesse and Shine Tenorio each belted two-run humdingers.

Your Balls answered with four runs in the top of the seventh off three hits and a solo blast by Ayuyu, but X-clusive manufactured three runs off two leadoff hits followed by a walk, another hit, and the game-winning RBI knock by Bill Camacho.

Berdax's Taisacan batted 2-for-3 with two homeruns and five RBIs. Notably, Your Balls' Ayuyu swung 2-for-4 with two homers and four RBIs, while teammate Vince Cepeda batted 3-for-3 with three runs.

The Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League, organized by the Chamolinian Softball Association, continues tonight night in Capitol Hill with men's play starting at 6:30pm when Phat Boyz (6-0) clashes with Red-Eye (3-4).

It will be followed at 7:30pm with a women's duel as top-ranked Sakudi (6-0) takes on second place Enamo Meta (4-1). Then an 8:30pm men's division match closes the night featuring Man Amigos (3-2) and Laolao Bay (1-5).

CAREY

From Page 32

ing off against U.K. pro Daz Parker. Renata Bucher will not be defending her XTERRA Guam title, as she went back to Switzerland after Tagaman, while Vanlandingham left the CNMI early after conquering XTERRA Saipan.

Carey in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during the Tagaman awards ceremony said she will use her strategy in Tagaman in Guam.

"I will not push myself so hard in the early part of the race and will save a lot of energy in the bike and run splits. I hope I can win again," Carey said.

Four other Saipan bets will join Carey in the Guam race. Butch Sublemente, Brad Ruszala, and Brian Morris are entered in the solo race, while Kevin Carey will team up with Guam's Jude Baker in the relay event.

XTERRA Guam will start with the swim split in the waters off Piti, while the bike race will bring riders up Nimitz Hill, then to the terrain atop Mt. Alutom and finally down to Mannengon Hills en route to the transition point at Port Authority Beach. In the trail run, participants will go through jungle rivers and down to slippery waterfalls.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	20	.714	—
Philadelphia	37	34	.521	13 1/2
New York	35	36	.493	15 1/2
New Jersey	23	47	.329	27
Toronto	20	51	.282	30 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	49	22	.690	—
x-Orlando	46	26	.639	3 1/2
Atlanta	40	32	.556	9 1/2
Charlotte	28	42	.400	20 1/2
Washington	17	53	.243	31 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	51	19	.729	—
Indiana	32	40	.444	20
Milwaukee	28	42	.400	23
Detroit	25	46	.352	26 1/2
Cleveland	13	57	.186	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	14	.803	—
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	7 1/2
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17
Memphis	40	32	.556	17 1/2
Houston	38	34	.528	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	46	24	.657	—
Denver	43	29	.597	4
Portland	41	30	.577	5 1/2
Utah	36	36	.500	11
Minnesota	17	54	.239	29 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	51	20	.718	—
Phoenix	36	34	.514	14 1/2
Golden State	30	42	.417	21 1/2
L.A. Clippers	28	44	.389	23 1/2
Sacramento	18	52	.257	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 111, Charlotte 88
New Jersey 98, Cleveland 94, OT
Philadelphia 105, Atlanta 100
Memphis 90, Boston 87
Miami 100, Detroit 94
Sacramento 97, Milwaukee 90
Oklahoma City 106, Utah 94
Orlando 111, New York 99
Houston 131, Golden State 112
Phoenix 114, Toronto 106
L.A. Clippers 127, Washington 119, 2OT
Denver 115, San Antonio 112

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	65	599	495	1813	27.9
James, MIA	68	640	430	1794	26.4
Stoudemire, NYK	69	679	422	1790	25.9
Wade, MIA	66	601	420	1679	25.4
Anthony, NYK	66	572	438	1648	25.0
Bryant, LAL	71	637	399	1771	24.9
Rose, CHI	69	613	377	1715	24.9
Ellis, GOL	71	649	306	1719	24.2
Nowitzki, DAL	61	514	331	1420	23.3
Martin, HOU	69	460	517	1587	23.0
Howard, ORL	68	548	466	1562	23.0
Griffin, LAC	71	590	393	1580	22.3
Aldridge, POR	71	623	327	1577	22.2
Westbrook, OKC	69	522	452	1522	22.1
Bargnani, TOR	62	505	274	1358	21.9
Granger, IND	69	469	339	1415	20.5
Williams, NJN	61	405	336	1247	20.4
Love, MIN	71	471	412	1442	20.3
Randolph, MEM	66	529	262	1327	20.1
Lopez, NJN	69	529	327	1385	20.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	361	580	.622
Howard, ORL	548	914	.600
A. Johnson, TOR	265	459	.577
Horford, ATL	448	791	.566
Gortat, PHX	256	455	.563
Young, PHL	374	689	.543
Ibaka, OKC	268	494	.543
McGee, WAS	255	471	.541
Odom, LAL	413	765	.540
Millsap, UTA	446	838	.532

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	71	323	773	1096	15.4
Howard, ORL	68	277	693	970	14.3
Randolph, MEM	66	299	533	832	12.6
Griffin, LAC	71	239	611	850	12.0
Humphries, NJN	69	202	504	706	10.2
Gasol, LAL	71	237	488	725	10.2
Okafor, NOR	61	186	405	591	9.7
Jefferson, UTA	71	202	476	678	9.5
Lee, GOL	62	184	408	592	9.5
Horford, ATL	66	164	463	627	9.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	65	746	11.5
Rondo, BOS	58	665	11.5
Williams, NJN	61	619	10.1
Paul, NOR	69	676	9.8
Calderon, TOR	63	568	9.0
Felton, DEN	65	562	8.6
Wall, WAS	57	492	8.6
Kidd, DAL	70	588	8.4
Westbrook, OKC	69	577	8.4
Rose, CHI	69	538	7.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tsunami Saipan eyes Guam meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan returned to its regular training session on Tuesday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in preparation for the Guam Championship in May.

"I really hope to bring as many swimmers as possible to the Guam Championships. However, there are qualifying times for this meet. Each swimmer should meet the BB time in their respective age group," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan coach added the club will hold weekly time trials for slots to the Guam Championships that will be held on May 27 and 28 at the Hagatna Pool.

"I will start recruiting next month," said Kimura, who added that a swim meet next month may also serve as a qualifier.

The tournament in Guam will be Tsunami Saipan's first off-island competition this year after the cancellation of the 2011 Tokyo Sprint. Kensuke Kimura and Kaito and Ryuto Yanai, and Lukas Kang were supposed to represent Tsunami Saipan in the 2011 Tokyo Junior Sprint Championships at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Koto City last week, but the event was shelved due to the tragedies that hit Japan this month.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan is holding its own fundraising efforts for the victims of earthquakes and tsunami in Japan.

"We started collecting monetary donation for Japan at the pool side during our practices," Hiro Kimura said.

The club will also wash cars next month and part of its proceeds will be donated to Japan.

"Let us help the Japanese people," the older Kimura said.

Shin Kimura echoed the sentiments of his father. The former Tsunami Saipan swimmer is now based in Yokohama, Japan, and though his place was spared from the wrath of the tsunami, his friends' were not.

"Japan needs serious help. We're lacking food, water, clothes, medicine, and more important supplies. I am kindly asking Tsunami Saipan swimmers and parents to help Japan. A dollar out of your pockets can save someone's life. Your support will make a big difference," Kimura said in a letter forwarded to Tsunami Saipan members.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kaisei Toda races in the 100m freestyle event during a local meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last month. In May, Tsunami Saipan will compete in Guam.

PIC netfest draws more than 70 players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 70 players will be competing in the first week of the 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships that will kick off today at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Week 1 of the two-weekend tournament will feature junior singles and adults doubles events.

In the girls U12 singles, 11 players will vie for the crown with six unseeded ones playing today. Malika Miyawaki and Mimi Sakano will duel at 3:30pm on Court 3, while Sally Hwang and Ami Tsukagoshi will meet on Court 1. At 4:30pm, Tania Tan will face Sakura Imaya. Julia Ishikawa, Emily Jones, Isabel Heras, Tammy Ackerman, and Carol Lee drew byes in the first round.

The boys U12 has 15 players with top seed Moris Villanueva getting the lone bye in the field. Three first-round matches are set for today with A.J. Hudkins taking on James Hourican on Court 3 at 5:30pm, Mondo Taniguchi meeting Haruya Eda on Court 1, and Colin Ramsey challenging Clayton Izuka at 4:30pm on Court 1.

The boys U15 singles has the second most entries with 14. Top two seed Christian Miller and Jake Lee earned byes in the opening round, while only Dylan Ackerman and Quintin Ramsey will play in the first round today at 3:30pm on Court 2.

The girls U15 drew only four competitors in Guam's Chloe Gadsden, Negahr Rastguiy, Adele Hudkins, and Mikayla Lopez. Lopez will also play in the girls U18, which has Amy Arenovski, Ilia Corella, and sisters Theecel and Thea Minor. The boys U18 singles has only Rafael Jones and Daniel Park, who will square off for the crown on Sunday.

In the adults doubles, the men's open division will feature the pairs of Peter Loyola and Jeff Race, Bong Gamab and Dong Lacbayo, and Peter Loken and Lope Padilla. The women's open will also have three teams in Lydia Tan and Vivian Lee, Thea Minor and Gadsden, and Amy Sletten and Nina Engelhardt.

Five pairs will battle for the men's 4.0 doubles. The list includes Fernando and Chris Cajigan, Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi, Ken Imaya and Gabriele Colombo, Daniel Park and Angelo Jones, and Eli Buenaventura and Roy Pangelinan.

The men's 3.0 doubles will welcome newcomers Darin Keizer and Jake Van Dam and they will vie for the championship against Carl dela Cruz and Ernie Henzon and Phil Kalen and Joe Quitugua.

The adults singles and juniors doubles will be played next weekend.

This year's PIC netfest is supported by PTC, Gatorade, Pepsi, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and Boutiki-Saipan.

Emily Jones gets ready to serve during last year's PIC tennis tournament at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hustlers, Fielders triumph in Big League

»Ol'Aces notch first win in Majors

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers and IT&E Fielders won over separate opponents in the Big League, while Happy Market Ol'Aces notched its first win in the Major League as the 2011 season of the Saipan Little League resumed.

Last Thursday, the Hustlers downed the Speaker Eli D. Cabrera-Rep. Fred DL Guerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions, 9-3, while last Monday IT&E run-ruled the Toothworks-JC Marketing Hunters, 13-2, in five innings and the Ol'Aces schooled the Attorney Robert T. Torres Little Legals, 8-3, last Sunday.

BIG LEAGUE
Hustlers 9, Lions 3

At the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Hustlers hit the board first with a run off an RBI single by Jeremy Lizama in the top of the first inning.

The Lions came up empty in the bottom frame and the Hustlers went ahead, 4-0, at the start of the second off a sacrifice fly by Toby Fleming and a couple of errors.

The Lions went 1-2-3 again to end the second and left the bases loaded in the bottom of the third after fending off the Hustlers in the top half of the frame.

The Hustlers then shot ahead, 8-0, in the top of the fourth off an RBI single by MacGarett Duenas and a bunch of costly errors.

The Lions were forced into its third 1-2-3 inning in the bottom frame and the Hustlers added a run in the fifth. Irvin Saralu drove in Joaquin Muna who led off the inning with a triple.

The Lions managed a couple of runs in the sixth and a run in the seventh, but never postured a real comeback in the contest. The Hustlers scored five runs off 10 errors committed by the Lions in the game.

Winning pitcher Fleming allowed one earned run in five and a third innings off just one hit, five walks, and a bean ball with four strikeouts.

IT&E Fielders 13, Hunters 2

IT&E Fielders got right to work with a five-run string in the top of the first inning. Kevin Villagomez led off with a walk and scored off a wild pitch.

Two walks later, Marvin Ngeskebei drove in Mike Tenorio and Juan Maratita with a base hit. Then Joe Basa hammered a double and later stole home.

The Hunters managed to get a run back off an error in the bottom frame, but IT&E answered with a run off a sacrifice fly by Mike Tenorio in the top half of the second.

After a quiet inning and a half, IT&E went ahead, 8-1, in the top of the fourth frame. Villagomez took a pitch for the team and later stole home, while the other run came in off an error.

The Hunters failed to answer again and IT&E piled on five more runs in the top of the fifth off a wild pitch, an RBI single by Villagomez, a two-RBI base rip by Maratita, and another wild pitch before holding the Hunters to just one run in its final stand.

Winning pitcher Nathan Guerrero went the distance, allowing one earned run in five innings off four hits, a walk, and a bean ball with six strikeouts.

MAJOR LEAGUE
Ol'Aces 8, Little Legals 3

At the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, Ol'Aces struck first in the top of the opening frame with two runs off an RBI double by Allen Cepeda and an RBI base rip by Kimo Angailen, an error, and a bean ball later, but the Little Legals got a run back in the bottom frame off an error.

The Ol'Aces then went ahead, 7-1, with a big push in the top half of the second inning. Joaquin Chong led off and got plunked, but scored off a passed ball. Two outs later Virgil Secharmidal got plunked and was escorted home off a walk with the bases loaded.

In the mix, Cepeda and Jose Carreon reached off a double and a walk and later scored off errors before the Legals could escape the inning.

The Legals managed to get another run back in the bottom frame off a passed ball.

Then both teams scored a run in the fifth inning before the Ol'Aces closed the final three outs of the game.

Winning pitcher Secharmidal allowed an earned run in five and a third innings off four hits, three walks, and a bean ball with eight strike outs.

Ol'Aces' Cepeda busted two doubles in four at bats with an RBI and two runs. Legals' Jesse Taitano nailed a pair of triples with an RBI in the loss.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Two in a row for MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

League favorite MP United Football Club is living up to expectations this early, as it kept the lead both in the boys U15 and 18 divisions of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League.

MP United went 2-0 in the boys U15 after a 3-1 triumph over Matansa Football Club on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Jehn Joyner scored his third goal of the season after making one against Matansa, while Daniel Lim also made it on the list. MP United was credited with an own goal, while Matansa's lone goal came from Jirech Yobech.

Shirley's 1 Tan Holdings 1

In the other boys U15 game, Shirley's Football Club and Tan Holdings engaged in a 1-1 draw.

Kenneth Domingo scored for Tan Holdings, while Shirley's drew its lone goal from Edward Cordero. Tan Holdings and Shir-

See TWO on Page 30

Kennedy Izuka throws in for MP United during their game against Matansa Football Club in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA youth spring league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sublemente leads Saipan bets in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Butch Sublemente duplicated his feat in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship after emerging as the top Saipan male finisher in last weekend's 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

Sublemente timed in at three hours, 51 minutes, and 24 seconds in the two-kilometer swim leg, 60-km bike, and 15-km run to beat fellow Saipan bets Lewie Tenorio (3:51:46) and Tyce Mister (4:06:03).

The 36-year-old Sublemente also finished ahead of Tenorio and Mister in XTERRA Saipan Championship with the former clocking in at 3:32:21. Tenorio and Mister submitted times of 3:56:42 and 4:00:05, respectively, in XTERRA Saipan.

In Tagaman, Sublemente

See SUBLEMENTE on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Butch Sublemente, right, poses with Swiss pro Renata Bucher before the start of the two-kilometer swim race in the waters off Pacific Islands Club during last weekend's 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

Salty's, X-clusive win anew; Berdax evens record

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Salty's and Island Apparel-X-clusive improved upon their winning records, while Berdax evened its win-loss card after the conclusion of last Wednesday's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Salty's 16, Familia 14

Salty's managed to stay a couple of steps ahead of Familia and held its early lead throughout the contest despite numerous comeback attempts by its opponent.

Salty's started things off with a four-run string in the top of the opening frame off a leadoff walk, two hits, and a two-run bomb by Melvin Aldan.

Familia got two runs back in the bottom half of the first off a pair of RBI singles by J.P. Flores and Koiln Reyes and went ahead 6-4 in the bottom of the second.

See SALTY'S on Page 30

Salty's Melvin Aldan batted 4-for-4 with a homerun, four RBIs, and two runs in last Wednesday's Chamolinian Softball Association game against Familia at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Carey, Gardner top cast in XTERRA Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sam Gardner will go for a three-peat, while Mieko Carey will aim for her second women's crown, as the 2011 XTERRA Guam kicks off tomorrow.

Gardner and Carey are among the more than 70 triathletes who will be participating in the one-kilometer swim, 31-km mountain bike race, and 8.2-km trail run in Saipan's neighboring island and the two pros are favored to top their respective fields after their impressive showings in the 2011 Saipan Sportsfest.

The United Kingdom pro won both the 2011 XTERRA Saipan and 2011 Tagaman Triathlon, while Carey recovered from a fifth-place finish in XTERRA Saipan with a runner-up finish in Tagaman.

Gardner, who won the 2009 and 2010 editions of Guam XTERRA, missed the 2008 race, and placed second to Olivier Marceau in 2007. He will be battling Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara in this weekend's men's race. Ogasawara finished second to Gardner in the XTERRA Saipan.

Carey, who claimed XTERRA Guam women's title in 2008 and was third last year behind Renata Bucher and Shonny Vanlandingham, will be squar-

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